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# BENJ FRANKLI.



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## A PROPOS

In presenting this abstract of the life of Benjamin Franklin on the occasion of the two hundredth anniversary of his birth, it is pertinent to note that an occurrence in the early history of Newbury, from which Newburyport—the home of the manufactures herein illustrated—was later set off, was of material assistance to Franklin in the confirmation of his discovery of the identity of lightning and electricity; as will be seen by the following extract from one of his letters to M. Dalibard of Paris, subsequently read before the Royal Society of London, and to be found in Bigelow's Works of Benjamin Franklin.

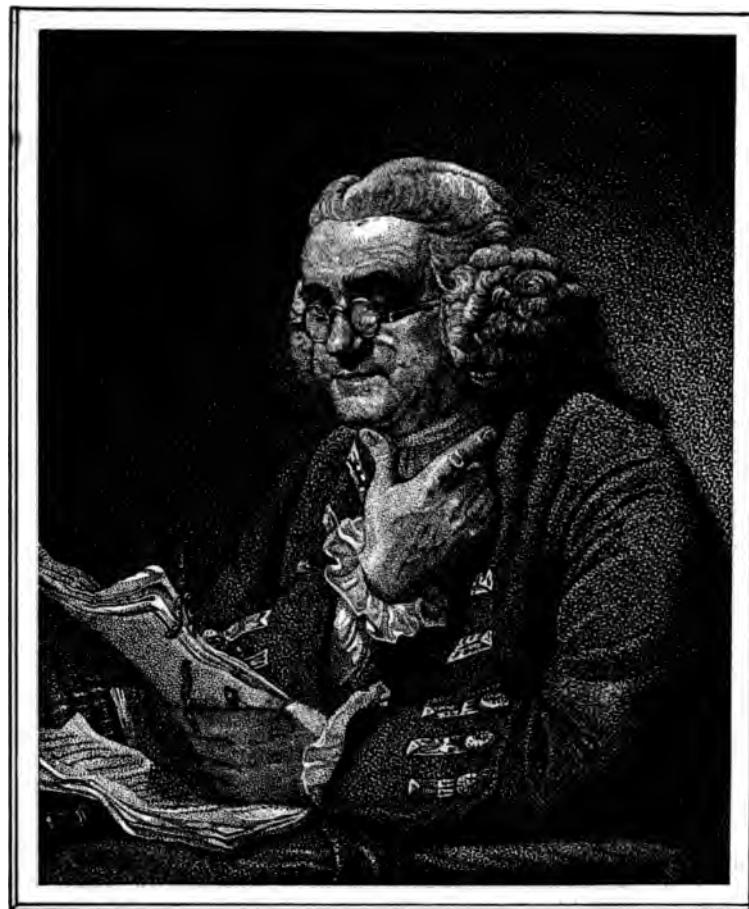
The church referred to stood in what is now Market Square, Newburyport, and was struck by lightning February ninth, 1754.

I thank you for communicating M. de Buffon's relation of the effect of lightning at Dijon, on the 7th of June last. In return, give me leave to relate an instance I lately saw of the same kind. Being in the town of Newbury, in New England, in November last, I was shown the effect of lightning on their church, which had been struck a few months before. The steeple was a square tower of wood, reaching seventy feet up from the ground to the place where the bell hung, over which rose a taper spire, of wood likewise, reaching seventy feet higher, to the vane of the weather-cock. Near the bell was fixed an iron hammer to strike the hours; and from the tail of the hammer a wire went down through a small gimlet-hole in the floor that the bell stood upon, and through a second floor in like manner; then horizontally under and near the plastered ceiling of that second floor, till it came near a plastered wall; then down by the side of that wall to a clock, which stood about twenty feet below the bell. The wire was not bigger than a common knitting needle. The spire was split all to pieces by the lightning, and the parts flung in all directions over the Square in which the church stood, so that nothing remained above the bell.

The lightning passed between the hammer and the clock in the above-mentioned wire, without hurting either of the floors, or having any effect upon them (except making the gimlet-holes, through which the wire passed, a little bigger), and without hurting the plastered wall, or any part of the building, so far as the aforesaid wire and the pendulum-wire of the clock extended; which latter wire was about the thickness of a goose-quill. From the end of the pendulum, down quite to the ground, the building was exceedingly rent and damaged, and some stones in the foundation-wall torn out and thrown to the distance of twenty or thirty feet. No part of the aforementioned long small wire, between the clock and the hammer, could be found, except about two inches that hung to the tail of the hammer, and about as much that was fastened to the clock; the rest being exploded, and its particles dissipated in smoke and air, as gunpowder is by common fire, and had left only a black smutty track on the plastering, three or four inches broad, darkest in the middle and fainter towards the edges, all along the ceiling, under which it passed, and down the wall. These were the effects and appearances on which I would only make the following remarks, viz.:

1. That lightning, in its passage through a building, will leave wood to pass as far as it can in metal, and not enter the wood again till the conductor of metal ceases. And the same I have observed in other instances, as to walls of brick or stone.
2. The quantity of lightning that passed through this steeple must have been very great, by its effects on the lofty spire above the bell, and on the square tower, all below the end of the clock-pendulum.
3. Great as this quantity was, it was conducted by a small wire and a clock-pendulum, without the least damage to the building so far as they extended.
4. The pendulum rod, being of a sufficient thickness, conducted the lightning without damage to itself; but the small wire was utterly destroyed.
5. Though the small wire was itself destroyed, yet it had conducted the lightning with safety to the building.
6. And from the whole it seems probable that, if even such a small wire had been extended from the spindle of the vane to the earth before the storm, no damage would have been done to the steeple by that stroke of lightning, though the wire itself had been destroyed.

B. FRANKLIN.



*Benjamin Franklin.*

THE LIFE AND SERVICES OF  
**BENJ FRANKLIN**



*WITH SOME OF THE PROVERBS OF  
POOR RICHARD*

AND A CATALOGUE OF THE

BENJ FRANKLIN PATTERN OF  
STERLING SILVER TABLEWARE



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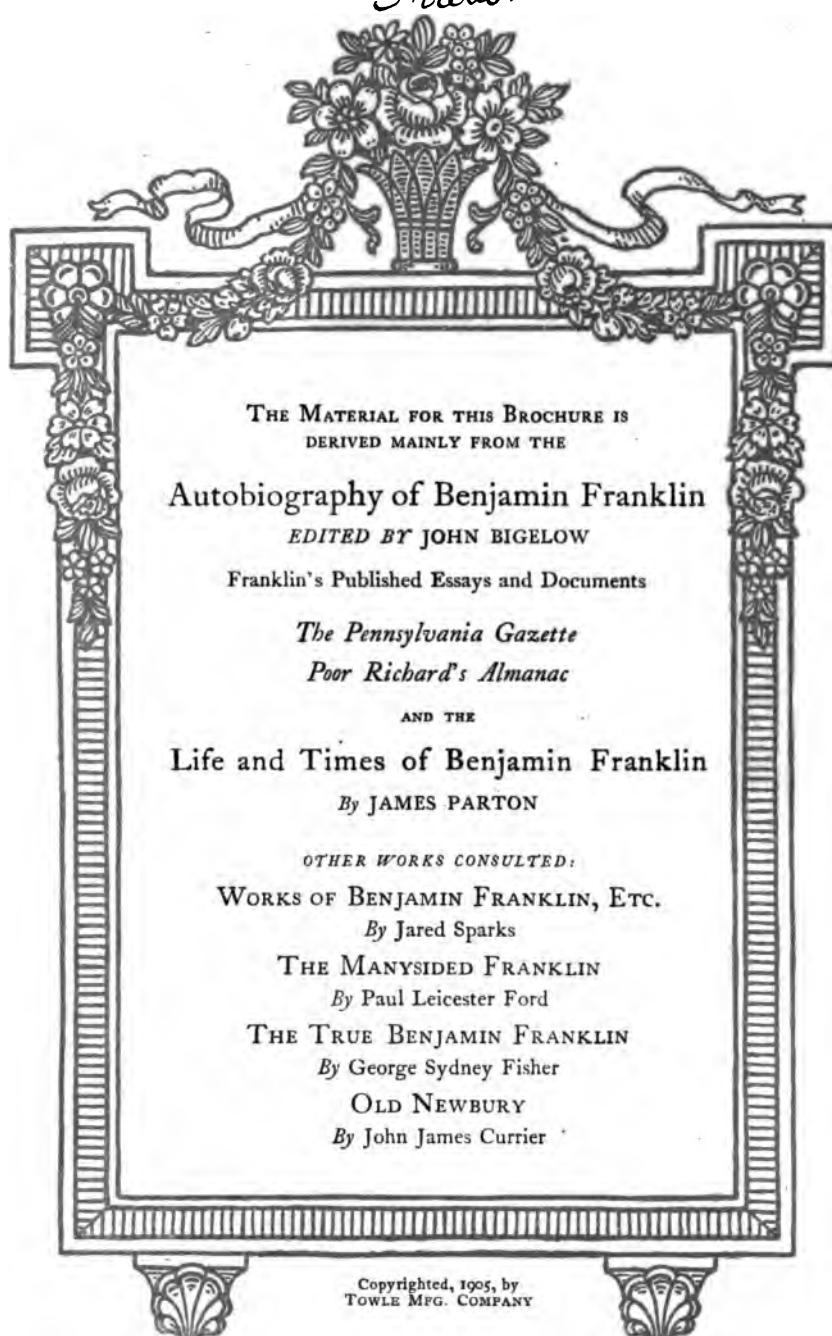
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NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS

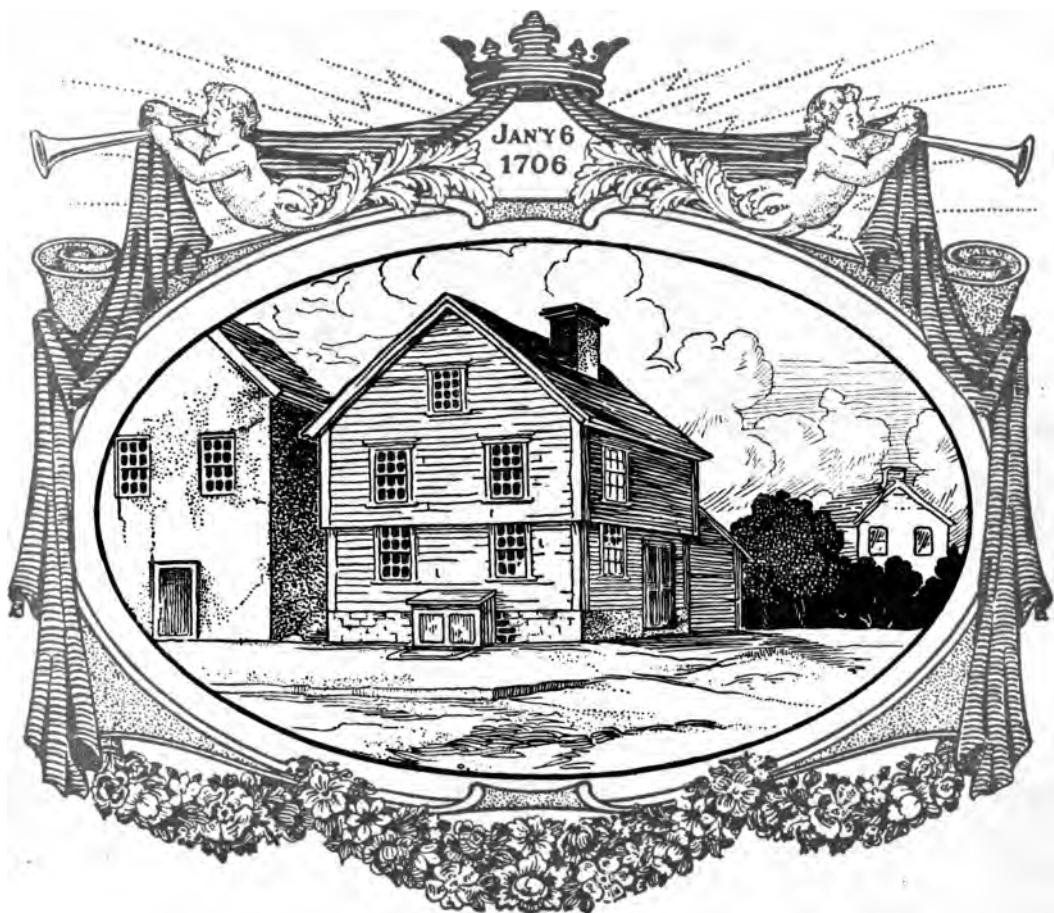
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## Benjamin Franklin.

*Born January 6, 1706.*

Two hundred years ago, with little appreciation of its importance to the world, the life of Benjamin Franklin began. The home into which he was born was comfortable and the family eminently worthy, but it was entirely lacking presumption of the genius that the alchemy of humanity had compounded of greatness and goodness, energy, ingenuity and sagacity, in fact with some subtle tincture of all the elements of wisdom and strength, not utterly devoid of faults, but altogether unique in history and opportune in its bestowal.

The Franklin house stood on Milk street, Boston, nearly opposite the historic Old South Meetinghouse, and in accordance with the requirements of the religious belief of that time he was, on the day of his birth, Sunday, carried to the church by his mother and baptized. His father, Josiah Franklin, was a candle-maker of sufficient means to bring up in comfort his large family of children, but he was obliged to forego his plan of educating Benjamin for the ministry, and two years' schooling between the ages of eight and ten constituted the sum of his official intellectual guidance. This but opened the door to the stores and fields of knowledge that Franklin by ardent application was to make his own, and its brevity enhances the triumph of his achievement. When, therefore, at the age of ten, economic reasons prevailed, thoughts of a higher education gave way to candle-making in his father's employ. The monotonous details of this work proved little to his taste, however, and his awakening impulses inclined him to seek adventure by running away to sea, a prospect that

**Virtue and a Trade are a Child's  
best Portion.** *Poor Richard.*



### The Printer's Apprentice

has allured generations of boys before and since. His father became aware of this, and to enable him to make choice of a more congenial occupation, took him to visit various places that he might observe workmen at different trades. He seemed most attracted by the work of his cousin Samuel, a cutler who had recently come from London and set up a shop in Boston. Samuel Franklin took him for mutual trial, but the arrangement miscarried and Franklin was then apprenticed to his brother James who was just getting established in the printing business. Franklin had read with precocious interest Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, Plutarch's *Lives*, and a few religious books that his father possessed, and the work that he now entered upon fostered his taste for study by putting him in the way of access to a greater range of authors, by which he profited immediately and signally. One of the first evidences of his maturing thought was a series of letters over the pseudonym of "Silence Dogood," which he contributed clandestinely to the "*New England Courant*," a newspaper established by his brother in 1720. This paper sought popularity by attacking and ridiculing established authority, especially in matters of religion, after having secured its subscribers by announcement of a contrary course, and the *Silence Dogood* articles by their free and sceptical character attracted a degree of attention quite incommensurate with the profundity of the writer who, notwithstanding the curiosity and speculation aroused, was able to maintain completely the secret of their authorship until his complacency over their success got the better of his caution. The trend of his thought toward religion, and the independence of his attitude and deductions, continued all through life and may possibly be summed up as deism, in turn combative, destructive, tolerant, friendly. He never scoffed at worship of an omnipotent God, although some of his writings were so interpreted by lesser intellects bound between the walls of narrow creed and convention. His religion was of constant and real service to himself, and after the repudiation of some of his early sophistry brought him the respect of eminent representatives of every creed. The following from the *Courant* is typical of his irreverent, though not necessarily sacrilegious,

**God, Parents and Instructors can never be requited.** *Poor Richard.*



### Arrival in Philadelphia

treatment of biblical subjects, and it is easy to understand the contempt it engendered in such a Puritan community:

"In old Time it was no disrespect for Men and Women to be called by their own Names: *Adam* was never called *Master Adam*; we never read of *Noah Esquire*, *Lot Knight* and *Baronet*, nor the *Right Honorable Abraham*, *Viscount of Mesopotamia*, *Baron of Canaan*; no, no, they were plain Men, honest Country Grasiers, that took care of their Families and Flocks. *Moses* was a great Prophet, and *Aaron* a priest of the Lord; but we never read of the *Reverend Moses*, nor the *Right Reverend Father in God Aaron*, by Divine Providence, *Lord Arch-Bishop* of Israel; Thou never sawest *Madam Rebecca* in the Bible, my *Lady Rachel*: nor *Mary*, tho' a Princess of the Blood after the death of *Joseph*, called the *Princess Dowager of Nazareth*."

It is inconceivable that such a sheet, embodying all the sensationalism characteristic of the most vulgar of its present day successors with a recklessness they dare not aspire to, could long continue without bringing trouble upon its sponsors, and in due course retribution overtook this one through the Great and General Court of Massachusetts, and James Franklin was imprisoned in jail for a month, being released only after humble apology. He was also enjoined from further publication of the *Courant*, but the paper was continued by Benjamin while the proprietor was in jail, and upon the expiration of James' sentence this arrangement was given a legal form to evade the state edict. In order to accomplish this it was necessary to annul Benjamin's indenture, as otherwise his liability would have reverted to James, but the latter retained a measure of hold on his brother through secret articles of similar import. This expedient in the end served Benjamin better however, as James was so unwise as to disturb the prosperity that followed the elevation of the former by quarreling with and severely beating him. With a knowledge that James was in no position to enforce a claim on his services, and after giving him warning to this effect, Benjamin determined to sever the ties of home and family and work out his destiny with an independence compatible with his mental development.

**A Fine Genius in his Own Count  
is Like Gold in the Mine. Poor Rich.**

By selling some of his books he raised a little money, and making a fictitious intrigue of which he pretended to fear the consequences an excuse for secrecy, he took passage on a sloop for New York, where in due course he arrived and undertook to secure employment. He applied to Mr. William Bradford, a famous printer, but the best that gentleman could do for him was to suggest that he call on his son, also a printer, in Philadelphia, whom he thought was in need of help. So Franklin set out in a small boat for Amboy, New Jersey, from which place he was to make his way to Burlington on the Delaware, and from thence by boat again to Philadelphia. The trip across the bay at New York proved disastrous, the boat being driven to the Long Island shore in a squall and barely saved from wreck by fortunate anchoring. Here they were obliged to stay over night exposed to a severe storm, wet and without food. One of the party, a Dutchman under the influence of liquor, fell overboard and was saved by Franklin as he was going down the third time. They reached Amboy the next day thoroughly exhausted and Franklin went to bed in a high fever. His strong constitution, aided by his faith in the efficacy of liberal draughts of cold water, enabled him to rise in his usual health the next morning, and he started on foot for Burlington, which he reached after nearly three days of tramping, the first in a driving rain, which put his courage to a severe test and reduced him to somewhat the appearance of a vagabond. He was fortunate enough to find a small boat that was to leave for Philadelphia that night, and after a hearty meal he embarked to spend the most of the night at the oars. The misfortune of the earlier stage of the journey attended him to its end; the party lost its reckoning and fearing that the city had been passed unknowingly, drew up at the shore and gathered around a small fire until dawn revealed their destination a short distance below.

Though the determination to run away from home is most frequently arrived at through a boy's immature consideration of conditions, existing and anticipated, there can be little question of the wisdom, in Franklin's case, of this recourse. He was by temperament antagonistic to the Puritan atmosphere of Boston, and his continued criticism of an unalterable situation would have hampered his independence and restricted his opportunities, while the necessity for prudence, engendered by his precarious footing in new surroundings—even though the people were freer of thought and content to take him as they found him—was certain to recommend sobriety of expression. It was in fact with an added sense of the seriousness of life that Franklin arrived at Philadelphia on that eventful Sunday morning in October, 1723. The picture of a dirty and disheveled boy of seventeen years, his necessary change of shirt and stockings bulging his pockets, with a large loaf under each arm, and in his hand a third which he munched with calm indifference while walking the streets in random exploration, is familiar through many renderings and is easily preëminent, although his after life abounded in striking tableaux. With a generosity that was always attendant upon his frugality, he gave the two loaves remaining after he had eaten enough, to a needy woman and her child, who had been fellow passengers the night before, and then wandered into a Quaker meeting, where the



Franklin's Watch.

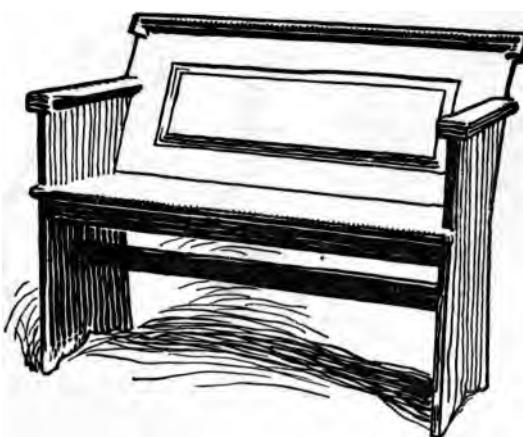
**He that never Eats too much  
will never be Lazy.** Poor Richard.

stillness and his fatigue soon put him to sleep. He was allowed to remain so until the meeting closed, and then on being awakened he sought a tavern and slept the rest of the day. After eating supper he went to bed and slept soundly through the night, so great had been his exhaustion.

On the following day he obtained employment with a printer named Keimer, William Bradford having already obtained a hand, and settled down to work and make the most of his opportunities. Keimer recommended him for lodging at the home of a Mrs. Read, whose daughter Deborah was destined to enter largely into his maturer life, and who, it happened, had with great amusement observed him on his memorable stroll up Market street the day before, little thinking what it meant to her that this strange youth had found his way to Philadelphia.

Franklin's natural craving for mental improvement had led him to seek the best in literature, and especially to profit by the style of those writers who appeared to him most gifted in argument and expression. He had early come upon a volume of the *Spectator*, the repository of the most learned thought of its time, and by arduous practice had acquired much of the scholarly manner and clear diction of its editors, which, joined with his speculative proclivities, made him an interesting companion for men of greater learning. In this way he gained the regard of Governor Keith of Pennsylvania and Delaware, whose acquaintance he made through his brother-in-law, Robert Holmes, who was master of a sloop that plied between Boston and the Delaware river, and who had thus met influential people. Keith had been long settled in his position and had acquired a graciousness of manner and profligacy of benevolence that led him to undertake much more than he was able to accomplish, and Franklin became the victim of his facile scheming. He proposed to give Franklin all the public printing of Pennsylvania and Delaware as the foundation of an independent business and sent the highly flattered recipient of his favor to the latter's father in Boston, with a letter urging Mr. Franklin to advance the capital to launch the enterprise, and when to his great surprise the appeal was refused, he lightly agreed to defray the cost himself, and even proposed that Franklin should go to London to personally select his outfit. Of course this seemed the climax of good fortune and Franklin at once engaged passage, relying on Governor Keith's voluble promises but continually deferred delivery of letters and credit, until at last he experienced an awakening when the final promise to

send the papers with others that were to meet the ship at New Castle was too late proven faithless, and he found himself on the ocean without resources or prospects. He had progressed materially in the affections of Miss Read during his stay at her home, and he left her without scruple in the companionship of a young man of congenial literary tastes, who took this opportunity to desert his wife and child. He made some worthy acquaintances on the ship, among them that of Mr. Denham, a prosperous Quaker merchant, who enlightened



Franklin's Pew in Christ's Church, Phila.

**In the Affairs of this World Men are Saved not by Faith, but by the want of it.** Poor Richo



### Deborah Franklin, wife of Benj. Franklin

him on Keith's real standing and the fatuity of the promises he had made. When, therefore, he landed in London he was obliged immediately to seek work to maintain himself. Fortunately his trade stood him in good stead and he soon entered upon the fullness of such life as the city could offer to a young printer. His companion, James Ralph, aspired to make a living by literary work, but as he could find no market for his imagined genius he was a burden to Franklin for a long time. He finally secured employment as teacher of an elementary school in the country, and before his return to London he broke with his benefactor on account of the latter's presumption of familiarity with his mistress, to whom also Franklin had loaned money.

From the beginning of his work in London, Franklin gained preëminence in his trade through the excellence of his work and his ability to accomplish more than his fellows. This latter faculty was largely the result of his orderly living and abstention from excessive drinking, to which his companions were addicted, and they gave him the name of the "Water American" because of his adherence to this beverage in place of the great quantities of strong beer on which they thought it necessary to rely. By saving the cost of this beer and by living very economically he was enabled to lay by a little money and was called upon every week to advance considerable sums to the others. His constant habit of endeavoring to improve his own condition and that of those around him by rational consideration of every detail of life further distinguished him as a leader and gained for him the respect of worthy people outside his profession. At Palmer's printing office where he first obtained work he was given Wollaston's "Religion of Nature" to set for a second edition. He be-

**If Thou wouds't Live Long, Live Well; for  
Folly and Wickedness Shorten Life. Poor Richard.**

Benjamin

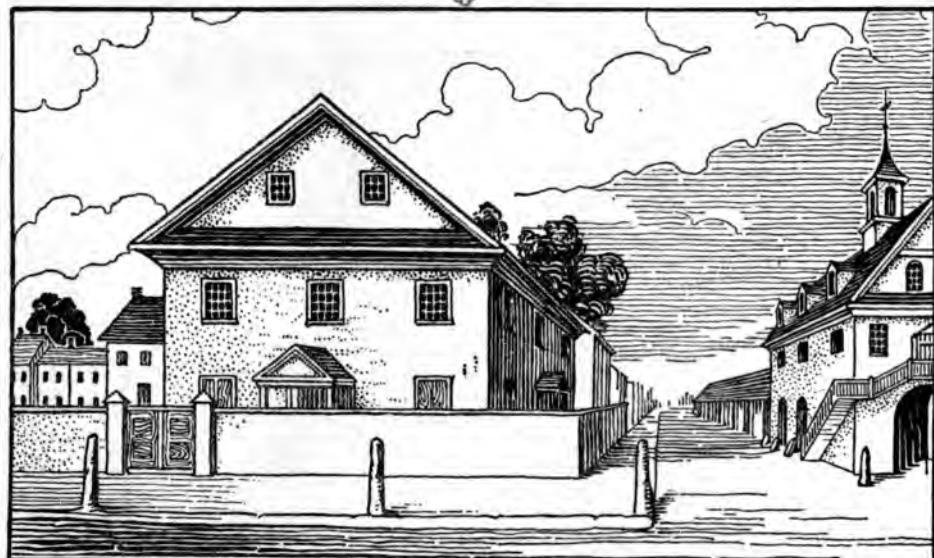
Franklin



### Sarah Bache, daughter of Benj. Franklin

lieved the author's reasoning fallacious, and to refute it he wrote and issued a pamphlet under the title "A Dissertation on Liberty and Necessity, Pleasure and Pain." It was a facile production denying a future life and repudiating other fundamental beliefs, but was rather an exercise in speculation than the result of conviction, and he soon regretted its publication and recovered and destroyed nearly all of the one hundred copies printed. It was the means, however, of his making the acquaintance of a number of celebrities whose companionship was a pleasant addition to his life. Another distinction which he gained at this time was the result of his prowess and skill in swimming. This had been a hobby in his earliest youth, and like everything that he inclined to had been exhaustively studied and thoroughly mastered in all its possibilities of endurance and grace. His success in teaching a companion to swim in two lessons became known to Sir William Wyndham, who sent for him and urged him to undertake the teaching of his two sons, who were about to start on extended travels which might thus be less hazardous. Franklin was greatly pleased with this recognition, but he could not accept the offer as the young men were not then in London and he had already completed arrangements to return to America with Mr. Denham, the merchant whose acquaintance he made on the voyage from Philadelphia. Mr. Denham needed a clerk to look after the packing and shipment of the large stock of goods that he was to carry back, and he assured Franklin of a good and permanent position in his store with the ultimate prospect of being a partner in the business. This was very attractive to Franklin who had a high regard for Mr. Denham, and he took leave of printing, as he thought, forever.

**An Ounce of Wit that is Bought is Worth a Pound that is Taught.** *Poor Rich*



### Quaker Meeting House, Philadelphia

He had spent about eighteen months in London and had profited in many ways by the experience, although not greatly financially, as his former friend Ralph was still indebted to him for twenty-seven pounds, but he was glad of so favorable an opportunity to return home, where he arrived on the 11th of October, 1726, after a voyage of nearly three months. While on shipboard he prepared a plan of life, consisting of an exhaustive moral code which it was his aim to realize in his relations with his fellow-men and which was a great help in overcoming many weaknesses.

Governor Keith had been superseded, during Franklin's absence, and when they met, passed him without recognition, appearing somewhat ashamed of his conduct. Miss Read, despairing of his return, had yielded to the desires of her friends and married a potter named Rogers, but had only lived with him a short time, so unhappy was the union, while it was rumored that he had another wife in England.

Mr. Denham took a deep interest in Franklin, who returned it with affection and a diligent attention to business; he felt that this was an important turning point in his career and was happy to be settled so favorably. His fate was marked in other lines however, and in February of the next year both he and Mr. Denham were taken down with what he calls "a pleurisy." Mr. Denham died, and Franklin was so near death that he resigned himself to it, a circumstance that he notes in his memoirs with mention of a feeling of regret, when he found himself recovering, that sometime or other it must all be done over again.

Thus thrown on the world again, Franklin accepted from Keimer, his former employer, a tempting offer as foreman, and undertook to mould into acceptability the work of a number of incompetent hands. After a few months it became evident that Keimer intended to employ Franklin only long enough to bring the others up to a tolerable standard, and as they gained in proficiency his manner became overbearing, threatening at any time a rupture and conse-

**Write Injuries in Dust,  
Benefits in Marble.** *Poor Richard.*



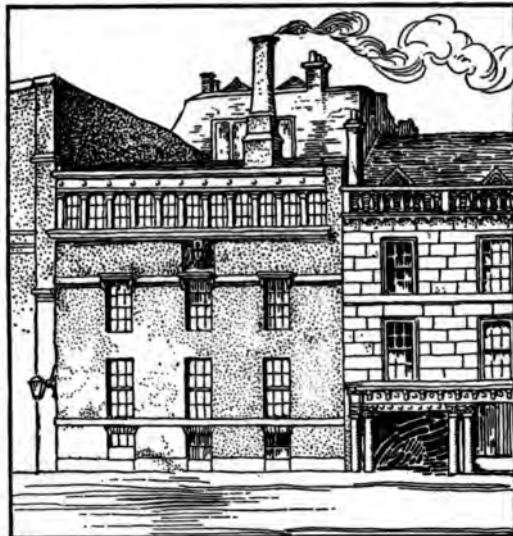
### Franklin in Governor Keith's Library.

quent excuse for terminating the engagement. He soon found the opportunity he sought, for happening to be in the street on an occasion when Franklin leaned out of a window to discover the cause of a loud noise nearby, he upbraided him publicly and then came to the work-room and continued it, finishing by giving him a quarter's notice which he regretted the necessity of. Franklin waived this and left instantly, requesting Hugh Meredith, an apprentice with whom he was friendly, to bring his belongings to his lodging. Meredith brought them in the evening and proposed that when his apprenticeship expired, which would be the following spring, they should form a partnership for which he would induce his father to furnish the capital, to be balanced by Franklin's skill, with an equal sharing of profits. To this Franklin readily agreed, and Mr. Meredith having a high regard for him because of his good influence over his son, was pleased with the alliance and ratified the plan. It was decided to keep the matter secret until the necessary outfit could be obtained from London, and so after a few days of idleness when he was again approached by Keimer, who wished to secure a large order which he was personally unable to execute, Franklin accepted his apologies and took advantage of this opportunity to profitably occupy the intervening time. The order was for making the plates and printing paper money for the province of New Jersey, and the successful execution of the work by Franklin brought him greater renown and many influential friends among those who were deputed to supervise the work. At that time no copperplate printing had been done in this country, and Franklin was obliged to contrive a press as well as engrave the plates and print from them. He took Meredith to Burlington with him to assist, that they might be together and that the latter might profit by the practice. Soon after their return to Philadelphia their outfit arrived from London, and they settled with Keimer and left his employ before he learned their plans. They hired a house and rented a part of it to a man named Godfrey, with whom they arranged to board. Business came to them from the

There is Small Revenge in Words, but  
Words may be Greatly Revenged. Poor Richa-

start through friends interested in their welfare, and Franklin makes special mention of the assistance thus gained through the members of a club called the Junto, which he had organized for mutual study and improvement. This club consisted of twelve members who met each Friday evening, and was very serious and methodical in its investigations, which were laid out on broad lines of Sociology, Science, and Religion. Through its central and subsidiary organizations, planned to take in the many who desired to join, without enlarging the original membership, it exerted a wide influence, and forty years later formed the nucleus of the American Philosophical Society of which Franklin was the first president. One of the members of the Junto procured for the new firm the printing of forty folio sheets of the history of the Quakers, and the industry displayed on this, which Franklin had determined should be set and printed a sheet a day, attracted the attention of influential people who observed them at work early and late, and further increased their patronage.

Bradford was successfully publishing a weekly newspaper, and Franklin having a strong disposition for writing, conceived the idea of entering this field. He was not prepared to start it at once, but he confided his plan to George Webb, a former associate at Keimer's, who had then come to Franklin for employment. He requested Webb, for whom he had no place, to keep the matter secret, but Webb immediately took it to Keimer who resolved to steal a march on his rival, and at once announced his intention of beginning the publication of the "*Universal Instructor in All the Arts and Sciences and the Pennsylvania Gazette.*" The bombastic forepart of the title was undoubtedly based on his proposal to republish, a consecutive part in each issue, a voluminous encyclopedia that had just appeared. Franklin was much chagrined at this forestalling of his project, and with the tactics of a modern stock-broker set out to weaken Keimer's position by strengthening Bradford's "*Mercury*" until such time as he should be ready to enter the field with his own paper. He therefore contributed regularly to the "*Mercury*," over the name of "*Busybody*," bright, pertinent articles calculated to interest the body of the people while avoiding everything that might give offense to any. This was a marked reversal of his tendency in the "*Silence Dogood*" letters of the "*New England Courant*," and indicated the ascendancy of the principles that he had formed after such mature deliberation and which served him with increasing profit to



**Watts' Printing Office in London,  
Where Franklin Worked.**

**Three May Keep a Secret,  
If Two of Them are Dead. *Poor Richard.***



### Franklin as Porter for Franklin & Meredith.

in the Assembly, as well as the manifest superiority of their work, the firm obtained the public printing of Pennsylvania, including the paper money which came to be authorized against considerable opposition through clever anonymous articles by Franklin, and also the similar work of Delaware. Meredith was of little assistance in the business and it developed that his father had, by reason of a straitness in his affairs, only paid one-half of the purchase price of the material obtained in London to set up the establishment, and was unable to supply the balance. The printers were having a hard time to make both ends meet, notwithstanding their increase of orders, and the prospect of raising the one hundred pounds remaining due was very remote. Franklin was much worried by the possibility of being sold out by his creditors, but this misfortune was obviated by the confidence and liberality of friends who learned of his distress. Without solicitation and unknown to each other William Coleman and Robert Grace offered to supply the money to pay all his debts if he would sever his connection with Meredith, who was dissipated and indolent as well as incapable. Franklin was grateful for this kindness and fully realized the wisdom of the conditions, but he felt in honor bound to give his partner full opportunity to complete the agreement which had enabled them to start in business. He therefore waited some time to see if this would be done, and finding no prospect of it, mentioned the matter to Meredith with the suggestion that perhaps his father was dissatisfied with the outcome of the venture and would prefer to have his son in business alone. Meredith replied very candidly that his father was really unable, through disappointments, to pay the balance, and furthermore, that he did not consider himself qualified to succeed as a printer, and that if Franklin would repay his father the one hundred pounds advanced, pay his small debts, give him thirty pounds and a new saddle, as well as assume

the end of his life. The scheme worked as he anticipated and Keimer's sheet was soon reduced to a precarious existence, which terminated with the thirty-ninth issue, when it was offered to Franklin's firm who bought it and brought it out under the abridged title of the "*Pennsylvania Gazette*." Franklin's skill and versatility as a writer soon rehabilitated it and it became an important factor in life and politics, thereby adding greatly to the prosperity of the general printing business of its proprietors, as the politicians were sensible of its power and recognized the benefit of being in harmony with its publishers. With this advantage and the influence of personal friends

**Creditors are a Superstitious Sect, Gre  
Observers of Set Days and Times. Poor Richo**

the debts of the firm, he would withdraw and remove to South Carolina where many of his former neighbors were settling. Franklin agreed to this proposal and it was immediately put in writing, signed and sealed. Being unwilling to prefer one beyond the other Franklin accepted from each of his two friends one-half of the money required and announced the dissolution of the partnership and his purchase of the business. Work continued to come to him in abundance and Franklin took on a journeyman he had known in London, and an apprentice, also adding to his establishment a book and stationery shop. He continued to board with the Godfreys, who lived in his house, and Mrs. Godfrey undertook to bring about his marriage with the daughter of one of her relatives. She brought them much together, and Franklin, being pleased with the girl carried it to the point of negotiations with Mrs. Godfrey, whom he informed that he should expect a dowry sufficient to pay what he owed on his business—his indebtedness having been reduced to about one hundred pounds. This broke up the affair, Mrs. Godfrey professing disapproval of the match and disbelief in his prospects. Franklin suspected that this was a ruse to force them to a secret marriage, reckoning that sufficient attachment had been formed, and he resented the idea and refrained from further attentions although Mrs. Godfrey intimated that they would be favorably received.

Having had his thoughts turned in this direction Franklin concluded that marriage would be desirable, and as he had kept up his acquaintance with Miss

Read, as he still called her, he revived their mutual affection and waiving the possibilities of the return of Rogers, who had long since run away to the West Indies where it was said he had died, and the liability for the latter's debts, he "took her to wife" September 1st, 1730. They never heard from Rogers or his debts and the alliance proved all that could be desired. Mrs. Franklin was not his equal in mental accomplishments, but she was faithful and helpful, and Franklin's amiability was always superior to her deficiencies of education, although later in life these were basely alluded to by his detractors. He regarded this step as the correction of one of the great errors of life, and of their union he says: "We threw together and have ever mutually endeavor'd to make each other happy."

As was the custom with all printers, Franklin had since setting up in business published an annual almanac, an ever profitable institution in those days of scant literature. He had been encouraged in this by Thomas Godfrey, whose passion for astronomy was above everything in his life, and who was therefore qualified to forecast eclipses and supply other necessary data for such a work. As a consequence of the disagreement with Mrs. Godfrey the family left Franklin's house and Godfrey's services were transferred to

*Poor Richard, 1733.*  
A N

# Almanack

For the Year of Christ

## I 733,

Being the First after LEAP YEAR.

<i>And makes since the Creation</i>	<i>Years</i>
By the Account of the Eastern Greeks	7241
By the Latin Church, when Christ. r	6932
By the Computation of W.W.	5742
By the Roman Chronology	3682
By the Jewish Rabbits.	3494

Wherein is contained

The Lunations, Eclipses, Judgment of the Weather, Spring Tides, Planets Motions & mutual Aspects, Sun and Moon's Rising and Setting, Length of Days, Time of High Water, Fairs, Courts, and observable Days.

Fitted to the Latitude of Forty Degrees, and a Meridian of Five Hours West from London, but may without sensible Error, serve all the adjacent Places, even from Newfoundland to South Carolina.

By RICHARD SAUNDERS, Philom.

PHILADELPHIA.  
Printed and sold by B. FRANKLIN, at the New Printing-Office near the Market

*Title Page (reduced) of the First Issue of Poor Richard's Almanac.*

**Keep Your Eyes  
Wide Open Before Marriage,  
Half Shut Afterwards.** *Poor Richard.*

Bradford. Instead of being dismayed at this loss Franklin's keen resources turned it to advantage and brought out an almanac so novel and entertaining that three editions were required to supply the demand that extended from New England to the South. As these almanacs were rated according to the learning and reputation of the Philomath, or astronomical calculator who was identified with each, Franklin supplied this deficiency by creating such a character under the name of "Richard Saunders" otherwise "Poor Richard" and the following, his introduction to the first issue, that of 1733, shows the spirit and completeness of the result:

"Courteous Reader:

I might in this place attempt to gain thy favour, by declaring that I write almanacks with no other view than that of the public good; but in this I should not be sincere; and men are now adays too wise to be deceiv'd by pretences how specious soever. The plain truth of the matter is, I am excessive poor, and my wife, good woman, is, I tell her, excessive proud; she cannot bear, she says, to sit spinning in her shift of tow, while I do nothing but gaze at the stars; and has threatned more than once to burn all my books and rattling-traps (as she calls my instruments) if I do not make some profitable use of them for the good of my family. The printer has offer'd me some considerable share of the profits, and I have thus began to comply with my dame's desire. Indeed this motive would have had force enough to have made

me publish an almanack many years since, had it not been overpowered by my regard for my good friend and fellow-student, Mr. Titan Leeds, whose interest I was extreamly unwilling to hurt: But this obstacle (I am far from speaking it with pleasure) is soon to be removed, since inexorable Death, who was never known to respect merit, has already prepared the mortal dart, the fatal sister has already extended her destroying shears, and that ingenious man must soon be taken from us. He dies, by my calculation, made at his request, on Oct. 17, 1733, 3 ho. 29 m. P. M., at the very instant of the ♂ of ☽ and ♀: By his own calculation he will survive till the 26th of the same month. This small difference between us we have disputed whenever we have met these nine years past; but at length he is inclinable to agree with my judgment.

Which of us is most exact a little time will now determine. As therefore these Provinces may not longer expect to see any of his performances after this year, I think myself free to take up the task, and request a share of publick encouragement; which I am the more apt to hope for on this account, the buyer of my Almanack may consider himself not only as purchasing an useful utensil, but as performing an act of charity, to his poor

Friend and servant,

R. Saunders."

A TABLE of the Value and Weight of Coins, as they now pass in Pennsyl- vania.	
	Least Value, Weight £. s. d. dw. gr.
E	Engl. Guineas at 1 14 0
	French Guineas 1 13 6
Moidores	2 3 6
Johannes's	5 15 0
Half Johannes's	2 17 6
Carolines	1 14 0
Dutch or Ger. Ducat.	1 14 0
French milled Pistoles	1 6 6
Spanish Pistoles	1 7 0
Arabian Chequins	1 13 6
Other Gold Coin, per Ounce	6 5 0
French Silver Crowns	7 6. 17 6
Spanish milled Pieces of 8.	7 6. 17 6
Other good coined Span. Silver, per Ounce	8 6
The Proportion of Gold to Silver, in England is, as 1 : 1 : 0 : 15 : 1	
1 Ounce Troy of Gold (22 Car.)	is worth Sterling £. 3 17 8 1
1 Ounce Sterling Silver, 0 5 2	

From Poor Richard's  
Almanac.

If You Wou'd Not be Forgotten as Soon as You ar  
Dead and Rotten, either Write Things Worth Readin,  
or Do Things Worth the Writing. Poor Richard.

He followed this in successive issues with the verification of Leed's death as predicted, and with ridicule of foolish assertions to the contrary purporting to come from Leeds himself, and after a few years when Leeds was really dead, with a letter from his spirit confirming Poor Richard's assertions and promising co-operation as follows:

"Dear Friend Saunders:

My respect for you continues even in this separate state, and I am griev'd to see the aspersions thrown on you by the malevolence of avaricious publishers of Almanacks, who envy your success.

They say your prediction of my death in 1733 was false, and they pretend that I remained alive many years after. But I do hereby certify, that I did actually die at that time, precisely at the hour you mention'd, with a variation only of 5 min. 53 sec. which must be allow'd to be no great matter in such cases. And I do farther declare that I furnish'd them with no calculations of the planets motions, &c. seven years after my death, as they are pleased to give out: so that the stuff they publish as an Almanack in my name is no more mine than 'tis yours.

You will wonder perhaps how this paper comes written on your table. You must know that no separate spirits are under any confinement till after the final settlement of all accounts. In the meantime we wander where we please, visit our old friends, observe their actions, enter sometimes into their imaginations, and give them hints waking or sleeping that may be of advantage

to them. Finding you asleep, I entered your left nostril, ascended into your brain, found out where the ends of those nerves were fastned that move your right hand and fingers, by the help of which I am now writing unknown to you; but when you open your eyes, you will see that the hand written is mine, 'tho wrote with yours.

The people of this infidel age, perhaps, will hardly believe this story. But you may give them these three signs by which they shall be convinc'd of the truth of it. About the middle of June next, J. J. \*\*\*\*\*n, Philommat, shall be openly reconciled to the Church of Rome, and give all his goods and chattels to the chappel, being perverted



**Governor William Franklin,  
son of Benjamin Franklin.**

**The Wise Man Draws More Advantage from His  
Enemies, than the Fool from his Friends. Poor Richard.**

by a certain country school-master. On the 7th of September following my old friend W. B. \*\*\*\*\*t shall be sober 9 hours, to the astonishment of all his neighbours: And about the same time W. B. and A. B. will publish another Almanack in my name, in spight of truth and common sense.

As I can see much clearer into futurity, since I got free from the dark prison of flesh, in which I was continually molested and almost blinded with fogs arising from tiff, and the smoke of burnt drams; I shall in kindness to you, frequently give you information of things to come, for the improvement of your Almanack: being, Dear Dick,

Your Affectionate Friend,

T. Leeds"

The regular tables of the months were interspersed with proverbs from many sources and wise maxims of his own, all presented in his inimitable manner and headed by original verses of a satirical or facetious character. Included also were chronological tables, list of the courts in neighboring provinces, the stated meetings of the Quakers, distances to the surrounding places, etc. Franklin continued to publish the almanac with unvarying success for twenty-five years, and it was then issued by his successors until 1796. In this time Poor Richard had become an immortal character and his wise sayings were spread broadcast in every language of the civilized world.

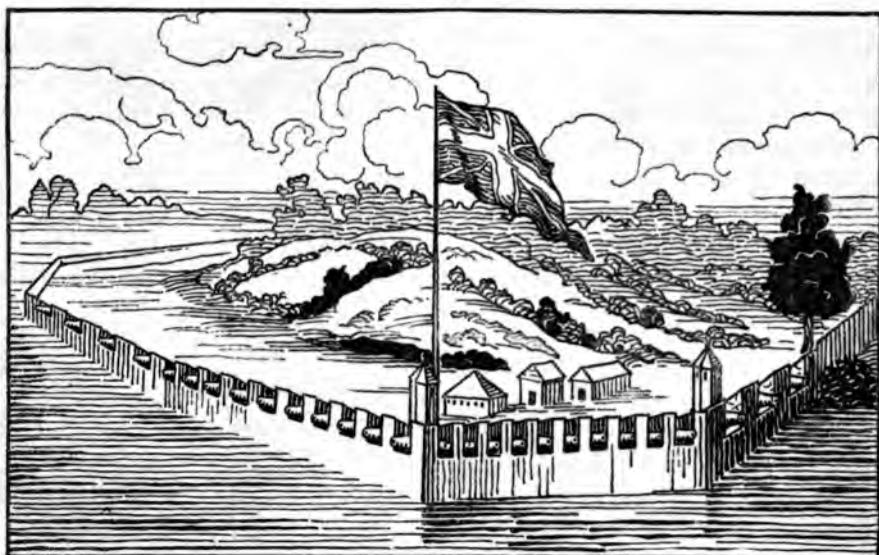
The subjection of his animal nature was one of the unattained principles of Franklin's Rules of Life, and he candidly relates his weakness in this regard. As a consequence an illegitimate son, William Franklin, whose mother was never known, became a member of his family and was brought up with full honor and advantages. He was educated in London as a barrister and held the positions of Postmaster of Philadelphia and Provincial Governor of New Jersey. Franklin had two other children, Francis Folger born in 1732, and Sarah born in 1743. The former, an extremely promising child, died of smallpox at four years of age, a misfortune which his father could never recall without pain. Sarah was a great comfort and pleasure to him, and she grew up strong, dutiful and accomplished, marrying Richard Bache, a merchant who failed in business in early life, and through Franklin secured a position in the Philadelphia Post Office, being subsequently Deputy Postmaster General.

This period of Franklin's life was full of activity and study, and laid the foundation of his subsequent renown. In 1733 he sent one of his journeymen to Charleston, South Carolina, with a printing outfit and took a partnership with him in the business. He proved only moderately successful and died not long after, leaving the business in a precarious condition, but his widow assumed its management with such profit that she was able to purchase Franklin's interest and establish her son in its conduct.

He took up the study of languages, beginning with French which he soon mastered, and passed through Spanish and Italian to Latin and Greek; he had had an introduction to Latin during one year of his early schooling, but had since neglected it, and he was surprised to discover that through this and his study of modern languages, he readily acquired proficiency in the former.

Franklin's activity in business and the Junto, brought him increasing prominence, and in 1736 he was chosen Clerk of the General Assembly. The next year he was appointed Deputy Postmaster General, a position formerly held by his competitor Bradford. It was characteristic of Franklin to turn to the utmost private benefit all private and public opportunities, a fact which he

**How Few there are Who Have Courage Enough to Own Their Faults, or Resolution Enough to Mend Them. P. E**



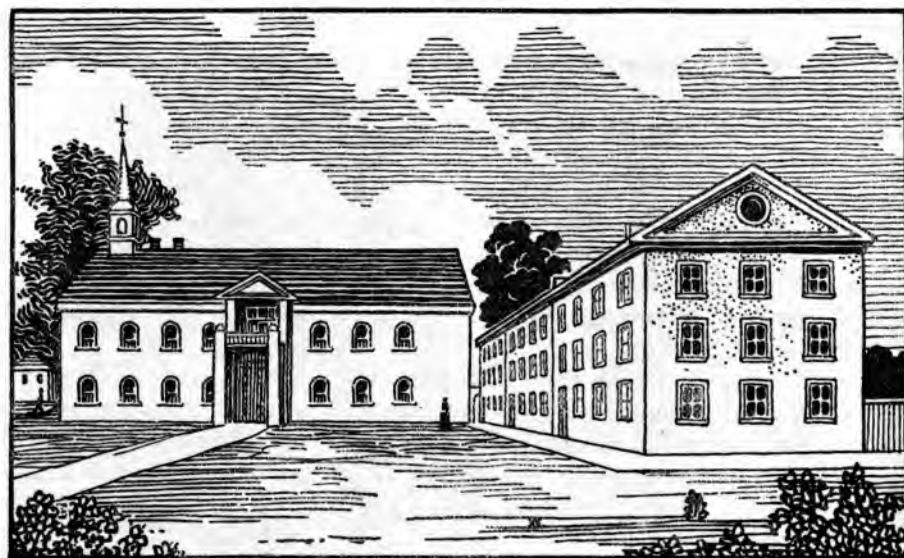
### Association Battery, planned by Franklin

continually and very ingenuously calls attention to,—although later in life the public phase of it was freely criticised by his enemies,—and the postmastership became a great help to the improvement and circulation of his newspaper. Like benefits had not only come to Bradford during his term in the office, but he had denied the privilege of the mails to the *Gazette*, reducing Franklin to the necessity of bribing the carriers for its surreptitious delivery. The latter did not stoop to retaliate under the reversed conditions, but he had the satisfaction of observing a gradual decline of the *Mercury* owing to the greater quantity of news he was able to collect and the consequent increase of subscriptions. His office of Clerk to the Assembly was also made the most of, and it was therefore with some disquietude that he noted the opposition of a worthy new member to his second annual election. This member desired the office for a friend, but Franklin received a majority of the votes and then set himself to gain the friendship of the antagonistic member. His own words will best recount his wisdom in the matter:

“I therefore did not like the opposition of this new member, who was a gentleman of fortune and education, with talents that were likely to give him, in time, great influence in the House, which, indeed, afterwards happened. I did not, however, aim at gaining his favour by paying any servile respect to him, but, after some time, took this other method.

Having heard that he had in his library a certain very scarce and curious book, I wrote a note to him, expressing my desire of perusing that book, and requesting he would do me the favour of lending it to me for a few days. He sent it immediately, and I returned it in about a week with another note, expressing strongly my sense of the favour. When we next met in the House, he spoke to me (which he had never done before), and with great civility; and he ever after manifested a readiness to serve me on all occasions, so that we became great friends, and our friendship continued to his death. This is another instance of the truth of an old maxim I had learned, which says,—‘He that has once done you a kindness will be more ready to do you another, than

**The First Mistake in Public Business  
Is the Going Into It.** *Poor Richard.*



### Philadelphia Academy, Founded by Franklin

he whom you yourself have obliged.' And it shows how much more profitable it is prudently to remove, than resent, return and continue inimical proceedings."

About this time he began to interest himself in some of the particularly manifest needs of his town, and he made the Junto with its branches and growing influence a very serviceable means of imparting his ideas. In view of the present widespread activity in and recognition of Improvement Societies and Civic Associations, which are deemed a modern conception, it is interesting to note the fruitful energy of this organization on the lines of civic betterment advocated by Franklin, and the permanence and value of the resulting institutions. He first pointed out the corruption and inadequacy of the sporadic night watch system of Philadelphia, which was under the jurisdiction of ward constables who were empowered to call on a certain number of citizens for service each night, in lieu of which a tax of six shillings might be paid which secured release from such service for one year. This was commonly taken advantage of by the better classes, and many evils resulted from the system, as the taxes went to the constables and they profited by employing, at very low wages, a disreputable set that was more a menace than a protection, and utterly unreliable as to patrol. He also argued the injustice of the specific tax, which for a poor widow was the same as for a rich merchant who had many goods to protect. He advocated the hiring of capable men to serve constantly, who should be paid from a tax levied in proportion to property; and though it took some years to overthrow the established system it was finally done and the foundation of the modern police system was laid.

In a paper read before the Junto he called attention to the frequency with which fires occurred, their causes, and means of preventing them. This led to the formation of a company of thirty members who each agreed to keep ready for use a certain number of leather buckets, strong bags and baskets, the latter for transporting goods, and to bring them to every fire.

**Would You Persuade, Speak of Interest  
Not of Reason. Poor Richard.**

They also met once a month to pass a social evening and discuss ideas for more effective service. As with the Junto, too many applied for membership and they were recommended to form other companies so that in a short time they became so numerous as to include nearly all the property owners of the city. The Union Fire Company, as that formed by Franklin was called, was in active service nearly sixty years and its apparatus, purchased with small fines levied on members who failed to attend the meetings, included an engine, two hundred and fifty buckets, thirteen ladders, two hooks and a long rope. These associations did good work in preventing the spread of fires and greatly reduced the losses from this cause.

Franklin's circumstances were now becoming easy through the large profits of his newspaper and other interests, and he decided to establish a number of his deserving workmen in various places, as he had done earlier in South Carolina. Nearly all of them prospered and at the end of six years, for which the partnership was specified, purchased Franklin's interest and continued successfully in the business.

In his consideration of the needs of the community Franklin realized two serious deficiencies and set about remedying them. One of these was the lack of facilities for the higher education of youth, and the other the total absence of protective militia. For the first he proposed the establishment of an academy and had in mind a clergyman whom he thought suited to direct it,—but this man, the Rev. Mr. Peters, had other plans, in the service of the Proprietors, and so the project languished for a while. The lack of militia was largely due to the peculiar political conditions prevailing in Pennsylvania; The hereditary proprietors were strongly represented in the Assembly, and with others of Quaker faith, for economical and religious reasons they persistently opposed any appropriation of funds for this purpose. Knowing that there was no hope of securing official initiative, although the Governor was strongly in favor of it, Franklin wrote and published a pamphlet called "Plain Truth" in which he recounted the dangers of invasion because of the war then waging between England and Spain—which had recently been joined by France, and urged a voluntary association to set up a battery and be ready to defend the city if the enemy should seek reprisals on this side of the Atlantic.

The pamphlet was widely approved, and he then called a public meeting for subscription to the rolls. This was well attended and was presided over by Franklin, who further advocated the plan and provided numerous printed forms bearing the articles of the Association, which he exhorted the audience to sign.

This request was eagerly complied with, and it was found when the papers were collected that over twelve hundred had pledged themselves to membership. Other copies were circulated in the surrounding country, and within a short time the membership was increased to ten thousand. These soon armed and formed themselves into companies and regiments, and met each week to drill and perfect themselves in military knowledge. Franklin was chosen for Colonel of the Philadelphia regiment, but he considered himself unfit for the office and recommended a Mr. Lawrence, who was of fine presence and influential, and he was accordingly elected. Franklin then proposed a lottery to raise money to build a battery and equip it with cannon. Lotteries were at that time fully accredited and popular, and served many worthy purposes. This one soon "filled" and the battery was built of logs filled around with earth. The matter of obtaining cannon was not so easy, as there were comparatively few in the

**The Way to be Safe, is Never  
To be Secure.** *Poor Richard.*



### Franklin's Punch Barrel.

a few more bumpers he advanc'd to ten, and at length he very good-naturedly conceded eighteen. They were fine cannon, eighteen-pounders, which were soon transported and mounted on our battery, where the associators kept a nightly guard while the war lasted, and among the rest I regularly took a turn of duty there as a common soldier."

Franklin's activities in these affairs brought him into close touch with Governor Thomas and his council, and he was consulted on every measure by which they proposed to help the organization. At his suggestion the Governor issued a proclamation for a fast to implore the blessing of Heaven on the undertaking. This was the first proclamation of this sort issued in Pennsylvania, and as no one else was familiar with the form, Franklin's New England education was of service and he drew it up in the style to which he was accustomed in youth. This was printed in English and German, for the benefit of the many colonists of the latter nationality, and being published through the clergy was very effective in gaining recruits. It was feared by some of Franklin's friends that this warlike activity would alienate his support by the Quaker members of the Assembly at the next election of Clerk. One young man who sought the office for himself took advantage of this apprehension to inform Franklin that it had been decided to displace him, and he thought he might prefer to resign rather than be turned out. Franklin's reply was: "I have read or heard of some public man who made it a rule never to ask for an office, and never to refuse one offer'd him. I approve of his rule and will practice it with a small addition: I shall never *ask*, never *refuse*, nor ever *resign* an office." No more was heard of the opposition and Franklin was again unanimously elected.

The tenets of the Quaker faith were often a source of embarrassment to its representatives in the Assembly who desired to serve the interests of the province and the crown. They could not consistently vote money for war, and so when the king called for grants for military purposes they satisfied the letter of their creed and the king's requirements by voting sums "for the King's

country and no facilities for making them. A few old ones were purchased from Boston and others ordered from England, a somewhat hopeless request being at the same time sent to the Proprietors for assistance in the work. Their greatest accessions resulted, however, from the visit of Franklin, Col. Lawrence and two other leaders to New York to request a loan of ordinance from Governor Clinton. The following, Franklin's account of their experiences, throws a light on many of the operations of the times:

"He at first refused us peremptorily; but at dinner with his council, where there was great drinking of Madeira wine, as the custom of that place then was, he softened by degrees, and said he would lend us six. After

You May Drive a *Gi*  
Without A *Gimlet*. P.

use." Once when the demand came from New England to furnish gunpowder for the king's troops at Louisburg and the above circumlocution was inapplicable, they voted an aid of three thousand pounds "to be put into the hands of the Governor for the purchasing of bread, flour, wheat or *other grain*," and calmly viewed the purchase of gunpowder. This adroitness was remembered by Franklin who planned to use like tactics to their discomfiture on an occasion when it was feared that the Quaker members of the fire company would defeat a proposal to apply the funds of the company, some sixty pounds, to the purchase of tickets in the militia lottery.

It turned out that only one of them opposed the plan, and that many of the twenty-one of that faith were ready to support it if necessary although they preferred not to attend the meeting. Franklin's plan was to secure their votes for the purchase of a fire-engine, and then by having himself and another, designated a committee for the purpose, to buy a great gun which he asserted was unquestionably a "*fire engine*." He, doubtless, would have enjoyed giving this lesson of their own teaching.

Soon after this, peace was concluded, and Franklin returned to his project of founding an academy. Following his settled policy of keeping himself in the background in these schemes of public improvement, he secured the co-operation of a number of friends, several of whom were members of the Junto, and in their names he published a pamphlet entitled, "*Proposals relating to the Education of Youth in Philadelphia.*" This he distributed among the principal inhabitants and when he thought they had had time to consider it he followed with a subscription for opening and supporting an academy. By making the sum pledged payable in yearly installments for five years he undoubtedly secured a greater aggregate, which he tells us was no less than five thousand pounds. Twenty-four trustees were chosen, and under a constitution drawn up by Franklin and the Attorney-General, Mr. Francis, a house was hired, teachers engaged and the school opened. It soon outgrew the facilities at hand and through Franklin's agency a very large building, which had been erected for the followers of George Whitefield, the evangelist, but which since his departure for other fields had been a considerable burden to the trustees, of which Franklin was one, was secured. During the great enthusiasm of the revival the building was quickly built, and, dedicated to undenominational services, opened to preachers of every faith. By assuming its debts, guaranteeing

**THE ART OF MAKING MONEY PLENTY  
IN EVERY MAN'S POCKET  
BY DOCTOR FRANKLIN**

## A Famous Rebus

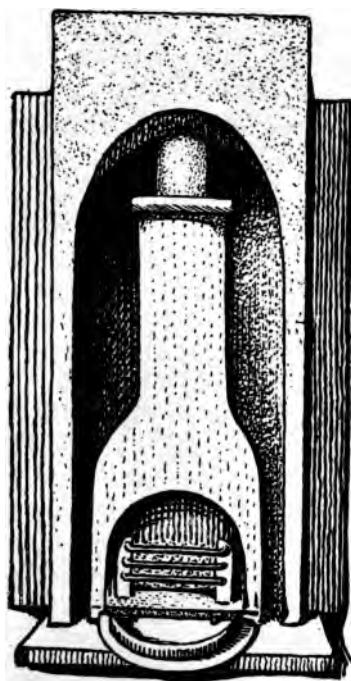
## Genius Without Education Is Like Silver in the Mine. *Poor Richard.*

the reservation of a large hall for the use of itinerant preachers and the maintenance of a free school for poor children, the trustees of the academy came into possession of this building, and under Franklin's superintendence remodeled and added to it with very gratifying results. The school flourished with a rector of Franklin's selection, but later when politics made Franklin a target for much abuse, both rector and pupils forgot his services in creating the institution and issued many pamphlets opposing and criticising him. After the War of the Revolution, when it had become the University of Pennsylvania, these differences were obliterated, and Franklin again became a trustee and was chosen president of that body.

During the years of his activity in founding these institutions Franklin also found leisure to continue his studies and experiments. His mind was always open to consider any problem that method or chance brought to his attention, and to all these he gave scholarly thought, much of which he carefully recorded, although some of the subjects today appear trivial. This was his mental nature, however, and whether it were rebuses, magic squares, or the newly discovered phenomena of electricity that were uppermost, the results were definite and in many cases valuable. One of his important inventions, made just previous to his taking up of public affairs was what he called the Pennsylvania Fireplace, now known in a modified form as the Franklin stove.

The large open fire-places of the period burned great quantities of wood and radiated little heat. Franklin devised a sort of stove to set within the fire-place, with which, through a clear appreciation of the properties of hot and cold air and a skillful application of their governing principles, he was able to create and maintain a draught through a devious passage that radiated a very large percentage of the heat of the wood burning on the grate. The results were much warmer rooms than had been possible before, and a great reduction in the quantity of fuel required. To explain this appliance to his neighbors Franklin published a pamphlet, which is not only an example of his pains-taking research but a delightful essay of permanent interest. He argued the benefits of warm air, reviewed current methods of heating in this and other countries, and demonstrated the superiority of his invention and the manner of installing and operating it. The fire-place became very popular and he gave the patterns to his friend Robert Grace, who was an iron-founder, and who did a thriving business through them. Franklin did not take out a patent on this, as he believed that everyone should freely contribute his discoveries and inventions for the common good, so he derived no pecuniary benefit from it. Some time afterward he learned that an iron-monger in London had appropriated the idea and patented it with great profit.

Franklin had relieved himself of all the details of his printing business by taking as a partner Mr. David Hall, who had been in his



Franklin's  
Philadelphia Fireplace.  
(From his model.)

**When You're Good to Other  
You are Best to Yourself.** P. 1

employ for a number of years and who proved very capable and methodical. He planned to devote the leisure thus gained to the study of electricity and other natural phenomena, and he purchased the physical apparatus of Dr. Spence who had come from England to lecture. Franklin had some time before received as a present from Mr. Peter Collinson of London a glass sphere to be rubbed with silk to generate electricity, and he had been greatly interested in the new force, for the study of which he had built improved apparatus, and had entertained many people with exhibitions of its working. He entered upon systematic experimenting with keen delight, but he was destined to be seriously interrupted, as no sooner was it known that he had retired from his printing office than the public seized upon him for all sorts of services. The Governor put him on several important commissions, he was elected successively a member of the Common Council, Alderman, and as a Burgess of the House of Representatives. He found the latter office very congenial and was re-elected for ten years, until he again went to England, without solicitation or other effort on his part, and through this membership he was enabled to accomplish a great deal of good for various causes. One of the first of these was the making of a treaty with the Indians, for which he, with Mr. Norris, the Speaker of the House, and two members of the Governor's council journeyed to Carlisle. They found the Indians very disorderly through drink, and they immediately forbade any rum to be sold them until after the treaty was concluded, promising them their fill when the business was over. By this means a very satisfactory treaty was secured, the Indians deliberating in a very dignified and orderly manner; but they turned again to savages of the most abhorrent type when the promised rum was delivered; men and women making a pandemonium of the night, dancing and shouting frantically around a huge bonfire in the center of the Square, and chasing one another with fire-brands in their quarrels.

Another project which he was enabled to realize was the establishment of a hospital in Philadelphia, the first institution of this kind in the country. The idea had been conceived by his friend, Dr. Thomas Bond, but this gentleman had been unable to convince the people of its benefits and so had secured few subscriptions. Many whom he solicited asked him what Franklin thought of it, and so he appealed to the latter for assistance although he had at first thought it out of the other's line. Franklin subscribed for himself and entered heartily into the work, soliciting of others, and then secured the passage of a bill in the Assembly authorizing an appropriation of two thousand pounds to be paid to the managers of the fund when they had obtained pledge of an equal sum from individuals. This was a plan to overcome the decided opposition of many representatives who believed that the conditions could not be met, and that they would thus appear public spirited without expense to the treasury. Franklin and his associates then went to the people with the argument that by this enactment the donation of each would be doubled and soon raised the full sum. A suitable building was erected and the Pennsylvania Hospital favorably established. It proved such a blessing that Franklin says in his Autobiography: "I do not remember any of my political manoeuvres, the success of which gave me at the time more pleasure, or wherein, after thinking of it, I more easily excused myself for having made some use of cunning."

From these important works we find him turning to minor conveniences with equal enthusiasm and effectiveness. He deplored the filthy condition of Philadelphia's important streets, and by means of small experiments and the co-operation of abutters he demonstrated the benefits of pavements, and

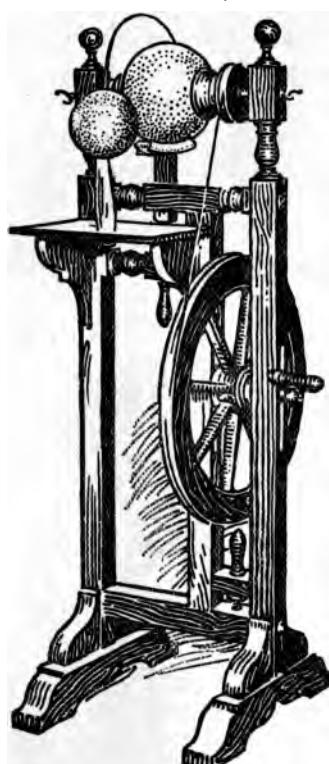
moulded public opinion into approval of taxation for continuing the work. He also called attention to the desirability of street-lamps, by following the example of Mr. John Clifton and placing one before his door. Though Franklin disclaims the initiative in this, he refers to his study of the faults of the London type of lamp for this purpose, the effectiveness of improvements which he devised, and to his efforts as usual, in public discussion of the matter.

His comments on these activities furnish a wise rendering of a great truth. "Some may think these trifling matters not worth minding or relating,—Human felicity is produc'd not so much by great pieces of good fortune that seldom happen as by little advantages that occur every day."

On the death in 1753, of Colonel Spotswood, the Postmaster-General, Franklin and Mr. William Hunter were jointly appointed to that office. Their salaries were to be three hundred pounds each per annum, if they could make that amount above the expenses of the department, and they succeeded so well in regulating and re-organizing it that the office, which had never before been remunerative to the British government, paid in a few years, a profit equal to three times the revenue of the post-office of Ireland. They took bold measures to accomplish this, and at the end of the first year were obliged to make good, out of their own pockets, a deficiency of over nine hundred pounds, but notwithstanding their later success their efforts were not appreciated by the ministers, and they were subsequently removed, after which the office lapsed to its former unprofitable condition.

In 1754 a congress of commissioners from the different colonies was called to meet at Albany to confer with the chiefs of the Six Nations to arrange for

defending the country in the event of the anticipated war with France. Franklin was one of the four chosen by the House to represent Pennsylvania on this occasion, and on the journey to Albany he conceived a plan of union of the forces of the provinces under a central government, which contained the elements of the National Union ultimately developed by the Revolution. When the congress convened he found that others had similar ideas but his was conceded to be superior in its details and was discussed and adopted in the intervals of the business with the Indians. It was then recommended to the Provincial Governments and to the Board of Trade of England, which had proposed the congress, with the result that at home it was rejected for unduly favoring the Crown, while in England it was held to be too democratic. This contrariety of opinion convinced its author of its suitability, as he sought such a basis of mutual concession in the relations of the two countries, and later, when serious differences arose, he worked consistently to this end. Franklin greatly regretted the loss of this opportunity to unite the provinces, and regarding it he observes:—"Those who govern, having much business on their hands, do not generally like to take the trouble of considering and carrying into execution new projects. The best public measures are therefore seldom



*One of Franklin's  
Electrical Machines.*



### Early View of the Pennsylvania Hospital

adopted from previous wisdom, but forc'd by the occasion."

Hostilities with France were fast approaching and the government of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay projected an expedition to capture the enemy's stronghold at Crown Point. To assist in defraying the expense of this Mr. Pownall was sent to New York, and Mr. Quincy to Pennsylvania, to solicit appropriations from the assemblies of those provinces. Mr. Quincy sought Franklin's aid in the matter and the latter so favorably presented it to the assembly that a grant of ten thousand pounds, to be laid out in provisions, was voted at once. This was included in a general appropriation bill which required the governor's signature to become operative and that official seized this opportunity to enforce the customary demand of his principals, the hereditary proprietors, that their estates be exempted from taxation for these purposes.

This was the perennial bone of contention in Pennsylvania politics and the governor remained obdurate alike to the demands of the house and the solicitation of Quincy. At this juncture Franklin again effected his purpose by finesse and secured the funds without the co-operation of the governor. He recalled a provision of the general laws by which the assembly had the right to issue orders on the Loan Office, a sort of forerunner of the National Banks, whose funds were derived from the interest on paper currency out on loans, and the excise revenue. At his suggestion the assembly authorized these orders for the ten thousand pounds voted to Massachusetts, and through them the money was quickly obtained, to the delight of Mr. Quincy who was deeply grateful to Franklin for his good offices, and became one of his firm friends.

Instead of intrusting the defense of the western frontier to a unification of the provincial forces, the British government sent over General Braddock with two regiments of regulars to accomplish this purpose, and especially to capture Fort Duquesne, a French stronghold on the Ohio river. He landed at Alex-

**God Helps Them That  
Help Themselves. P. R.**

andria and marched his troops through Virginia and Maryland to the hostile country, insulting and plundering the inhabitants with arrogant freedom.

The Pennsylvania Assembly learned indirectly that the general was strongly prejudiced against it because of supposed antagonism to his service, and Franklin was requested to attend the army, as postmaster-general, under the pretense of solicitude for its postal facilities, but in reality to assure General Braddock of the government's sympathy with his expedition. He took his son with him and they found the army resting at Frederictown while the surrounding country was being searched for horses and wagons to transport its stores. After spending several days in camp and accomplishing the purpose of his visit, Franklin was about to depart when the details returned with the report that but twenty-five wagons of a very poor sort could be found. General Braddock was dismayed and would have abandoned the campaign but Franklin offered his assistance and promised to gather the one-hundred and fifty teams required. After arranging the necessary details and securing the general's written agreement to pay the owners for their outfits and services, Franklin went to Lancaster and issued an advertisement stating in full just what was desired, and followed it with a letter of appeal in which he commended the purpose of the expedition and pointed out the prudence of voluntarily furnishing at good remuneration what might otherwise be taken by force.

These announcements stirred the farmers, and in two weeks the required number of four-horse wagons, with drivers, supplies, and upward of two-hundred and fifty pack-horses were on their way to the army. General Braddock had supplied eight hundred pounds for advance payment but this proved insufficient and Franklin advanced two-hundred pounds from his own pocket besides giving bonds to the amount of twenty thousand pounds to indemnify the owners against loss of the equipment. The general was very grateful for this support and repaid Franklin for his outlay, thanking him many times for his labor. The success of this undertaking led him to request Franklin to forward supplies to him while on the march, which the latter promised to do, and returning to Philadelphia advanced upwards of one thousand pounds for the purpose. Franklin had modestly offered suggestions as to the Indian method of warfare but Braddock disdained these with the assurance that his seasoned British troops could not possibly be defeated by such tactics, and that Fort Duquesne would be speedily taken and the march continued to Niagara. He was doomed to a fatal enlightenment from this conceit and before reaching Fort Duquesne his army was attacked from ambush, routed with great loss, and the general mortally wounded. The demoralized remnant of the forces returned to Philadelphia for protection, and Franklin found himself besieged for payment for the forfeited property which he had guaranteed. Fortunately he had rendered a bill for the provisions, which had been honored by an order on the paymaster just before the defeat, and he was able to satisfy the claimants until they were indemnified by General Shirley, otherwise he would have been ruined through his zeal.

Although he had no military aspirations, Franklin's inseparable connection with all important public affairs brought him necessarily to the front in plans of defense from the Indians, whose violences were at this time a matter of great concern. He was largely instrumental in drafting and passing, in the Assembly, a compromise bill by which the proprietors were allowed to contribute specifically the sum of five thousand pounds of an appropriation of sixty thousand pounds for defending the frontier, in lieu of submitting to taxation of their

estates for this purpose, and by the act he was made one of the commissioners for expending the fund. At the same time he secured the enactment of a bill for establishing and disciplining a volunteer militia, and published a fictitious dialogue setting forth many objections to the plan, with convincing answers. At a time when the bonds of government were weak and individual independence aggressive, Franklin's consistent reliance upon leading rather than coercing the people in all affairs, was a prime element of his popularity and success, and most gratifying evidence of the wisdom of his long-practiced principles of intercourse, which may be termed diplomacy but which from the benevolence of their intent seem better described as tact. Under the provisions of the first bill it was decided to build three forts on the north-western frontier of the province, and at the urgent solicitation of the governor, Franklin consented to direct the operations. He was commissioned as commander and given full power to appoint all subordinate officers, and he soon raised five hundred and sixty men, many of them proficient in woodcraft; these he assembled at Bethlehem, from whence he set out with the main body for Gnadenhut, a Moravian village which had recently been burned and its inhabitants massacred, while he sent one detachment northward and another southward to fortify other points on the frontier. This was in midwinter and the labor was arduous; but such was the skill of the men and the effectiveness of his directions that in less than a week a fort four hundred and fifty feet in circumference was built of logs placed upright in the form of palisades, with loopholes, and a stage around the inside six feet from the ground. They encountered no opposition from the Indians although evidences were frequently discovered that small parties of them had watched the operations. The fort was hardly completed and its maintenance provided for, when Franklin received a letter from the governor and others from friends in the Assembly, urging him to return as soon as he could be spared, to attend the session, which the governor had found it necessary to convene. It happened that Colonel Clapham, a New England officer, was on a visit to the place at that time, and Franklin turned over the command to him, reading his commission before the men with the assurances that this officer was much more competent to direct them than himself, and started back to Philadelphia. On reaching Bethlehem he decided to rest a few days to recover from the fatigue of camp life, which had become so habitual that it was difficult for him to rest in the good bed here provided. He was much interested in the conduct and customs of this Moravian settlement and left it with increased respect for its people.

The volunteer association was well under way when he arrived again at Philadelphia, nearly twelve hundred men having signed the rolls. The captains and other officers of the various companies having been chosen, they elected him colonel, and this time having become somewhat accustomed to military service, he accepted the command though still somewhat averse to prominence of that sort. On the occasion of the first review of his command, which included a company of artillery with six brass field-pieces, they accompanied him to his home and fired a salute which, he regrettfully relates, knocked down and broke several pieces of his electrical apparatus. Soon after this an incident occurred which testified to his popularity with his officers, although it caused Franklin considerable annoyance. Having learned that he was about to start on a journey to Virginia, the officers planned to escort him in state to the ferry, and, to the number of about forty appeared at his door mounted and in uniform, just as he was leaving on horse-back. His description of the incident

**Wish Not so Much to Live Long  
As to Live Well.** *Poor Richard.*



### Franklin's Escort

clearly indicates his attitude toward such affairs:—"I was a good deal chagrin'd at their appearance, as I could not avoid their accompanying me. What made it worse was, that, as soon as we began to move, they drew their swords and rode with them naked all the way. Somebody wrote an account of this to the proprietor, and it gave him great offence. No such honor had been paid him when in the province, nor to any of his governors; and he said it was only proper to princes of the blood royal, which may be true for aught I know, who was, and still am, ignorant of the etiquette in such cases."

Though Franklin styles this a "silly affair" the proprietor took it very seriously, and made it the occasion of denouncing him to the ministry as planning to usurp the government, also endeavoring to effect his removal from the office of postmaster-general; but his chief enmity toward the offender, of which this incident was an excuse more suited to public protest, was the latter's steadfast opposition to the exemption of the proprietary estates from their due share of taxation. As a result of this outcry, however, or because it was deemed unwise to sanction the beginnings of military strength in the provinces, the law under which the Pennsylvania regiment was recruited was repealed in England, and the commissions of all its officers withdrawn.

By his partnership with Mr. Hall, Franklin had now been relieved from the active cares of business for about six years, during which, in addition to the benevolent and political interests that he had served, he had cultivated his mind in many directions, and had conducted and published a long and varied series of electrical experiments, which had established him as one of the foremost scientists of the world.

He had in turn received the degree of Master of Arts from both Yale and Harvard colleges, and without solicitation he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of London, an unprecedented honor which included special remission of the customary fees, and was awarded its Sir Godfrey Copley gold medal.

He discovered and defined the positive and negative nature of electricity, invented new forms of apparatus for producing and displaying it, and exhibited

A Life of Leisure, and a Life of Laziness, are Two Things. P. R.



### The Memorable Experiment With the Kite

many novel and startling applications of his discoveries. Of these the greatest, and the one that brought his fame to the highest point, was his demonstration of the identity of the phenomena of thunder and lightning, and the spark drawn from the Leyden jar. Long before it had occurred to him to test this theory for himself, by means of a kite—as he did later with such notable success—there being no high buildings in America, he had written to his friend Mr. Collinson of London, suggesting in detail an arrangement of metal rods on some tall structure situated on high ground, and during a thunder storm to connect this with the prime conductor of a Leyden jar in the expectation of its being charged by the electricity of the heavens. This, and other letters recording his experiments were read by Mr. Collinson before the Royal Society but at the time they received little credence, and to accord them the opportunity to which he believed they were entitled, this gentleman arranged for their publication by Mr. Cave the proprietor of the Gentlemen's Magazine, who brought them out collectively in the form of a quarto volume.

A copy of this work attracted the attention of the Count de Buffon, an eminent philosopher of Paris, who arranged for its translation into the French language, which led to the successful trial of the proposed experiment of the lightning conductor, by the Messieurs Dalibard, the translator, and De Lor. The fame of this verification of Franklin's theory spread rapidly over Europe and to England, where, in London, the Royal Society was brought to a realization of the importance of the communications which they had slighted, with the result of welcoming the author to fellowship, as above stated.

In the meantime Franklin had conceived the idea of sending his conductor into the clouds by means of a kite, and before he learned of the success of Messieurs Dalibard and De Lor, at Marly, he had experienced the satisfaction of proving, in Philadelphia, the truth of his theory. There are many dramatic accounts of this achievement, and they are quite justified by the importance, if not by the circumstances, of the fact; but the discoverer restricts himself to the following general directions for performing the experiment:

**Diligence is the Mother of Good Luck.** *Poor Richard.*



### Franklin in His Library

"Make a small cross of two light strips of cedar, the arm so long as to reach to the four corners of a large thin silk handkerchief when extended; tie the corners of the handkerchief to the extremities of the cross, so you have the body of a kite; which being properly accommodated with a tail, loop and string will rise in the air, like those made of paper; but this being silk is fitter to bear the wet and wind of a thunder-gust without tearing. To the top of the upright stick of the cross is to be fixed a very sharp-pointed wire, rising a foot or more above the wood. To the end of the twine, next the hand, is to be tied a silk ribbon, and where the silk and twine join, a key may be fastened. This kite is to be raised when a thunder-gust appears to be coming on, and the person who holds the string must stand within a door or window, or under some cover, so that the silk ribbon may not be wet; and care must be taken that the twine does not touch the frame of the door or window. As soon as any of the thunder-clouds come over the kite, the pointed wire will draw the electric fire from them, and the kite with all the twine will be electrified, and the loose filaments of the twine will stand out every way, and be attracted by an approaching finger. And when the rain has wetted the kite and twine so that it can conduct the electric fire freely, you will find it stream out plentifully from the key on the approach of your knuckle. At this key the phial may be charged; and from electric fire thus obtained, spirits may be kindled, and all the other electric experiments be performed, which are usually done by the help of a rubbed glass globe or tube, and thereby the sameness of the electric matter with that of lightning completely demonstrated."

Certainly this was a modest way of announcing a discovery that engrossed the world, and was held to menace tenets of religion.

During the long interval that had elapsed since he first left home, Franklin had seldom visited Boston, for which apparent neglect we must find a reason in the multiplicity of his affairs, and the difficulties of the journey, as his affection for his family was constant, and was expressed frequently by letters and remembrances.

**Today is Yesterday's Pupil.** *Poor Richard.*

His first visit was made when he had been away ten years, and he called on his brother James, who was then in business in Newport, Rhode Island, and healed the differences caused by his injudicious conduct on the occasion of his earlier return at Governor Keith's suggestion. He found his brother in poor health, and promised in the event of the latter's death, which seemed, and was indeed imminent, to take his son James and train and establish him in the printing business, which he faithfully did—after having given him several years schooling—by which he felt that he had made amends for his brother's loss through his own defaulted service.

His father, Josiah Franklin, died in 1744, and his mother Abiah, in 1752. The fullness and character of his regard for them are evidenced by this inscription, which he placed on the monument which he erected over their graves, in the Granary burying-ground, in Boston; it is alike creditable to parents and to the son:—

Josiah Franklin and Abiah his wife  
lie here interred.

They lived lovingly together in wedlock fifty-five years;  
and without an estate or any gainful employment,  
by constant labour, and honest industry,  
(with God's blessing,)   
maintained a large family comfortably;  
and brought up thirteen children and seven grand-  
children reputably.

From this instance, reader,  
be encouraged to diligence in thy calling,  
and distrust not Providence.

He was a pious and prudent man,  
she a discreet and virtuous woman.

Their youngest son,  
in filial regard to their memory,  
places this stone.

J. F. born 1655—died 1744,—Æ. 89.  
A. F. born 1667—died 1752,—Æ. 85.

In August 1756, Governor Morris was superseded by Captain William Denny, and Pennsylvania entered upon an administration destined to imperil the foundations of its liberties, in whose defence Franklin, the recognized leader, was to be called to the beginning of a long and fruitful term of service on the other side of the Atlantic.

**Honor Thy Father and Thy Mother, i. e. Live so as to be  
An Honor to Them Tho' They are Dead.** *Poor Richard.*

Governor Denny brought to Franklin the gold medal awarded him by the Royal Society, and he took the opportunity, after presenting it on a public occasion, to withdraw with the recipient and endeavor to cajole him into a favorable regard for the demands of the proprietor in matters of taxation, promising him ample reward in money and honors if he would lend his influence in the Assembly toward harmony with his, the Governor's measures.

In reply, Franklin, with his usual courteous directness, assured the Governor that he desired to be friendly with the proprietor, and would do everything in his power to render the administration of his agent easy and agreeable so long as it was not in conflict with the rights of the people, whose interests he should continue to serve; adding, that through God's blessing his circumstances were such as to render unnecessary any favors from the proprietor, and that as a member of the Assembly it would be unlawful for him to receive such. He further expressed the hope that Governor Denny was not bound by the instructions which had been such a source of trouble with the previous administration.

The Governor did not choose to enlighten him on that point, but the course of events soon revealed the obnoxious requirements, and after some months of fruitless effort on the part of the Assembly to secure approval of bills which contemplated taxation of the proprietary estates, and of equally fruitless effort by Governor Denny to obtain specific exemption of these estates, matters reached a crisis on the governor's rejection of a revenue bill based on an excise tax, which the House thought an unobjectional expedient, but which also proved incompatible with the "instructions," the bill being returned to the Assembly with the announcement that as there was in those parts no person to judge between the governor and the House, the former would immediately transmit to his Majesty his reasons for so doing. As all the interests of the province must suffer from a lack of funds following such a deadlock, the House, after recovering from the consternation resulting from this affront, passed the necessary bill in a form acceptable to the governor, having first in a series of resolutions, recorded its sense of injury and the reasons for concession on this occasion. The situation in which it now found itself was regarded as intolerable, and the Assembly further resolved that a remonstrance be drawn up and presented to the King and Parliament and that the two most honored members, Mr. Norris, the Speaker, and Benjamin Franklin, be requested to go to England and urge the redress of their grievances. Mr. Norris, pleading age and ill-health as excuses, begged to be allowed to decline, but Franklin, after protesting that his colleague was well qualified to accomplish the matter without his assistance, offered himself for any service that the House might require. Mr. Norris remaining firm in his refusal, it was resolved, that "Benjamin Franklin be and he is hereby appointed agent of this province, to solicit and transact the affairs thereof in Great Britain." Franklin's son William, then Clerk of the House, was granted leave of absence to accompany him, and the sum of fifteen hundred pounds was voted to defray the expenses of the mission.

Franklin prepared to start immediately, and had engaged passage and sent his stores on board the packet at New York, when Lord Loudon, then in command of the King's forces in the colonies, arrived at Philadelphia for the purpose of reconciling the affairs of the province, and the journey was delayed pending a discussion of the matter. As his lordship was unable to alter the conditions, nothing was accomplished, and Franklin and his son resumed their preparation and started for New York, the packet with their stores having in

**One May be More Cunning Than Another, But Not  
More Cunning Than Everybody Else.** *Poor Richard*

the meantime sailed. On account of the dilatoriness of Lord Loudon, to whose orders they were subject, the sailing of other packets was greatly delayed, and months elapsed before the reports for which they waited were ready and they were allowed to depart. Franklin's ship, though at first handicapped by faulty stowage of the cargo, proved, when that was remedied, to be the fastest of the fleet, and after a somewhat eventful voyage of thirty days, during which they were several times chased by hostile craft, and at the end narrowly escaped shipwreck on the Scilly Isles, they arrived at Falmouth, where Franklin and his son disembarked and traveled overland to London, arriving on the 26th of July, 1757.

After resting a while at the home of his friend Peter Collinson, and there receiving many of his old friends, and those with whom his scientific works had brought him into correspondence, Franklin and his son took up their abode with Mrs. Margaret Stevenson in Craven Street, Strand, William Franklin entering at once upon the study of law, while his father set to work upon the business of the Assembly. He obtained an interview with the Messrs. Penn and endeavored to conciliate and show them the injustice of their restrictive instructions to the Governor, but they refused to bend, and kept him at a distance with quibbling objections to the form of his petition, asserting that it would be impossible to take any action for a long time, as it was the beginning of the vacation season and the lawyers upon whom they depended for advice were away.

Following this damper to his hopes Franklin was taken with a serious illness in the form of an intermittent fever, which, with the misguided medical treatment of that day, incapacitated him for eight weeks. On his recovery he engaged the services of leading councillors and sought to prosecute his mission, but it was a year before the Proprietaries took any action, and then they ignored Franklin and sent an unconcessional reply to the Assembly through Governor Denny.

During this time and later, he vainly attempted to secure an interview with the powerful and friendly William Pitt, Lord Chatham, and another year passed without any advancement of his cause. With the help of his son he had replied in the newspapers to many calumnious articles inspired by the Proprietaries, and had published and distributed hundreds of copies of a large volume giving the full history of the controversy between the Assembly and the Governors. This work attracted considerable attention favorable and other-



**Mrs. Stevenson's Home  
Craven Street, London**

**It's Common for Men to Give Pretended  
Reasons Instead of One Real One. P. R.**



John Knox's House  
High St., Edinburgh

of the Assembly in issuing notes to the amount of £100,000 which were to be met by taxation of all estates and property not excepting those of the brothers Penn.

Governor Denny had given up the struggle, and had been replaced by Mr. James Hamilton, a Philadelphian, who was a little less hampered by proprietary restrictions, and in the absence of Franklin, the Assembly went to greater lengths of self-assertion. A ponderous committee was appointed by the Privy Council to pass upon the measure before it was submitted for the approval of the King, who, by the terms of the charter, had the power to repeal obnoxious acts. This committee reported very harshly and recommended that the act be repealed.

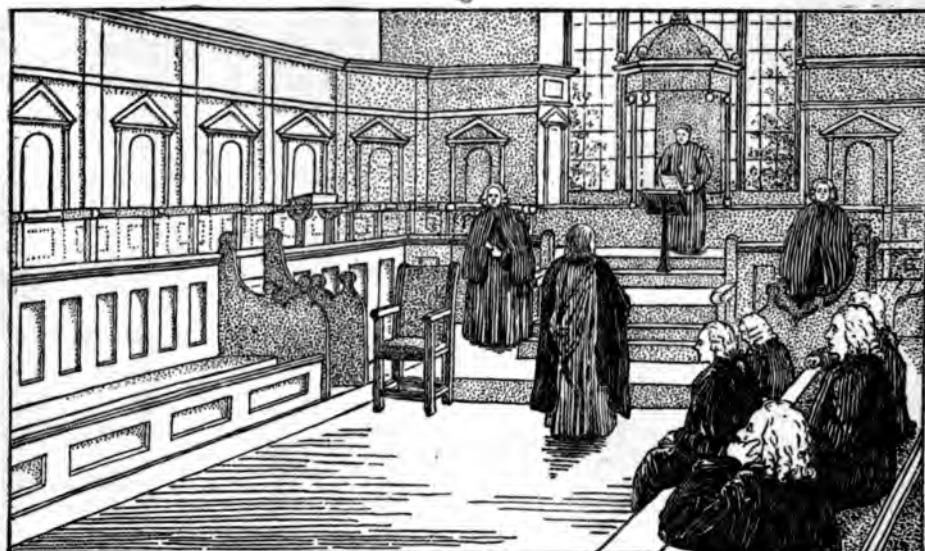
When the news of this was received, Franklin was about starting on a visit to Ireland, but he unpacked his satchels and gave all his energy to securing a reversal of the recommendation, as the act had been in force for some time before knowledge of it reached England and much of the currency was already issued. By promising to urge an amendment which, apparently, would somewhat relieve the Proprietaries, he secured their assent, and from the committee a strong recommendation for approval of the measure. This was in due course placed before King George II and the Privy Council, and readily allowed. The amendment was never passed by the Assembly, though it was frequently addressed to this end by Governor Hamilton, acting for the

wise, but did not appreciably improve the situation, and Franklin settled down to a life of social and scientific gratification, varied with vacation trips which included a visit to Wellingborough and Ecton, where his ancestors had lived, and where he yet found several cousins. On one of these occasions Franklin and his son spent six weeks in Scotland, and were lavishly entertained and honored by the universities and the leading people. The University of St. Andrews had previously conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Laws, which in its essential became his recognized title. He also visited Cambridge and was flatteringly received and entertained by the chancellors and the heads of the colleges.

He wrote many interesting letters to his wife and daughter, and frequently sent them presents of dress goods and household furnishings, while in return they sent many delicacies such as he was accustomed to in America.

His first real success in his work came in 1760 when the Proprietaries raised great objection to a recent act

**Have You Somewhat to Do To-morrow; Do It To-day.** *Poor Richard*



### Taking His Degree at Oxford University

Penns, it being contended that a fair consideration of the original bill would show it based on the elements called for in the amendment. Besides preventing the embarrassment that would have resulted from the recall of outstanding currency, this victory was important in its bearing on the subservience of the Assembly to the brothers Penn, whose powers were thereafter much lessened.

Although Franklin remained in England two years after this, he accomplished little more for the cause of the province. He took a prominent part in the controversies resulting from the change in the ministry and policy at the death of George II, and the ascension of George III, and was credited with much good influence on important questions. He continued his scientific and literary pursuits, and in the summer of 1761, he and his son made a tour of the Low Countries.

Franklin planned to return to America early in the spring of 1762, but owing to affairs of his own, and the unreadiness of the vessel, it was late in autumn before he arrived in Philadelphia. During this interval he visited Oxford and received from the university the honorary degree Doctor of Canon Law, and William Franklin, who had completed his legal studies and had been admitted to the bar, was granted that of Master of Arts. William had gained a considerable following on his own account, through his undoubted abilities and his close association with his father, and his crowning triumph came just before the date set for their departure, in the appointment to the governorship of New Jersey. This was judged to have been obtained for him without solicitation, and in the face of many aspirants, by his friend Lord Bute, then the most powerful man in Parliament, and it aroused considerable protest in England, although it was well received in the Province, where the new Governor was highly honored on his arrival the following February.

Dr. Franklin left Portsmouth, without his son, in the latter part of August, and after a very pleasant voyage of nine weeks in a merchantman sailing with a large fleet, arrived at Philadelphia on the first of November, having been absent six years from his home and friends. A few days after his father sailed,

**If You Would Reap Praise You Must Sow the  
Seeds of Gentle Words and Useful Deeds. P. R.**

but with his knowledge and consent, Governor Franklin was married to Miss Elizabeth Downes, a young woman who had come to London from the West Indies, and it was with the announcement of this in the *London Chronicle* that his new appointment was first published. He entered matrimony, having an illegitimate son, William Temple, then about two years old, thus repeating his own relation to his father.

Franklin greatly enjoyed the reunion with his family and old associates, and took especial comfort in the society of his daughter Sarah, a beautiful girl of eighteen. With full honors bestowed upon him, he planned to live the rest of his life in ease, and gratify all his yearnings for hospitality and recreation, but the disturbances that led to the inevitable conflict with the mother country soon claimed his services and drew him into his former activity.

In October, 1763, Governor Hamilton resigned, and John Penn arrived from England to take his place. It was thought by the Pennsylvanians that this would facilitate the work of the Assembly, as it seemed probable that a member of the Penn family would be less restricted by instructions and likely to act more on his own judgment, which a direct knowledge of conditions would incline favorably to the public cause. Like his predecessors, he showed great consideration at first, but this proved of short duration, and he soon seized an opportunity to ally himself with the party in opposition to liberty and advancement. This opportunity was the outcome of the deplorable massacre of a few friendly Indians, the last of a tribe that had made the treaty with his grandfather, William Penn. They were murdered by a party of fanatics from the district of Paxton, and when a second raid on a larger band of another such tribe was imminent, he called on Franklin for help, and through the latter's writings and personal efforts in bringing these civilized and Christian aborigines to Philadelphia, protecting them with a garrison hurriedly raised, and then meeting and discouraging the attacking party as it neared Philadelphia, the Indians were saved and another blot on the history of the province was averted. As a reward for this help in an extremity, the Governor turned against Franklin and having found, in the country districts, a considerable approval for the indiscriminate extermination of the Indians, he set his seal on a proclamation offering a large bounty for the capture or scalping of any Indian, male or female. From this point of departure he lent his influence to the demands of two minority parties, the landed aristocrats, of which he was naturally one, and the lowest dregs of a half assimilated peasantry.

All the old differences he intensified with greater arrogance, and matters reached such a pass that the Assembly adjourned to test the sentiment of the people on a proposed address to the King, begging him to assume the direct government of the province according to the terms of the original grant, making to the Proprietors such compensation for the cession of their vested rights as he might deem wise. The Assembly met again on the 14th of May, 1764, after an interval of seven months, and it was found that an overwhelming majority of the voters had signed the petitions approving the address to the King. The venerable speaker, Mr. Isaac Norris, weakened at the last moment and resigned his office rather than sign so radical a measure, and Franklin, one of its steadfast champions, was elected to the place and signed the petition.

At this time the suggestion of a stamp tax for the colonies, to help meet the large debt resulting from the war with France, was made by George Grenville, the prime minister of England, but the opposition to this form of tribute was so pronounced that the plan was for a time abandoned.

**He Has Chang'd His One Ey'd Horse  
for a Blind One. Poor Richard.**

At the election in the following October, Franklin met his first defeat at the polls. All through the summer a vigorous campaign was waged by the conservatives who formed the Penn government, and by the liberals who desired to free the province from it. Tactics of all kinds were employed to prevent the re-election of Franklin, who, as usual, depended entirely on a dissemination of his principles and arguments in pamphlet form. So great was the attendance at the polls that they were kept open from nine o'clock, October first, until three o'clock in the afternoon of the next day, and when the counting was finished nearly twenty-four hours later, it was found that the new ticket had triumphed and Franklin and nearly all his Philadelphia associates were defeated, the former by a majority of twenty-five votes only. In view of the fact that he had been elected to the Assembly for fourteen years, during six of which he was absent from the country, without seeking the place or asking any one to vote for him, and that in spite of extensive fraudulent voting by his opponents the majority against him was so small, Franklin found little to depress him in the result, and when the House, which, by a return of most of the old members from other counties, still had a majority over the Proprietary party, immediately elected him again to the office of agent of the Province in England, he willingly accepted and prepared to take up the work, notwithstanding his advanced years and the sacrifice of his hoped for leisure.

This appointment aroused bitter protest from the Penn adherents, and he was assailed with violent criticism, both political and personal, but complacent in his knowledge of its falseness, he bore this with his usual equanimity.

On the seventh of November, but twelve days after his election as agent, he was escorted to Chester, a few miles below Philadelphia, by three hundred citizens on horseback, and there embarked once more for England, which he reached after a short but stormy passage. He hoped to make his stay abroad short on this occasion, a prospect which somewhat mitigated the pain of leaving his wife and daughter, for whom his solicitude was tenderly expressed in a parting letter despatched from the ship as it was leaving the Delaware.

The news of his safe arrival in London was hailed with great joy in Philadelphia, and the bells were rung until nearly midnight, the cheering knowledge of which he received in one of his first letters from home.

Franklin returned at once to his old lodgings with Mrs. Stevenson, in Craven street, and in a very short time was actively working to prevent the passage of the Stamp Act, which he found the all absorbing topic in political circles. With the other American Agents he had interviews with Prime Minister Grenville, and personally, he employed all his resources of acquaintance and argument to avert this strain between the home government and the colonies, but entirely without avail, as Grenville had promised Parliament that he would present such a measure, and he was firm in this determination, although courteous in his reception of the remonstrants, and fair enough to request from them an alternative measure that would accomplish the purpose without occasioning resentment. He did not, however, choose to so regard Franklin's announcement that he was authorized to promise that the Pennsylvania Assembly would vote and pay its proportionate part of the desired funds, if requested by the King, in the constitutional manner.

The act passed almost unanimously, with little thought that it would excite anything more serious than a temporary grumbling at the burden of the tax. This was to be raised almost wholly upon paper books and documents, and affairs pertaining to the transaction of business, and the American agents

**We That Scatter Thorns,  
Let Him Not Go Barefoot.** *Poor Richard.*



### Franklin Nearing England on His Third Voyage

friend at home to submit to the oppression without resistance, trusting that it would be only transient and that England might be made, by peaceable methods, to realize its error; and without doubt this was then his sincere attitude, resulting from a deep-rooted attachment to the mother country, and an inherent tendency toward expediency rather than impetuosity.

Later, when the question of repeal came up, his attitude had undergone a marked change, influenced, no doubt to a large degree, by a knowledge of the implacable opposition which the act provoked. He was, however, calumniated as a traitor, and the safety of his family and property menaced, when he, believing no other course available, was simply a peacemaker.

With the fall of the Grenville ministry before the time appointed for the inauguration of the stamp régime; the tremendous non-importation reprisals and the accession of a more liberal ministry under the Marquis of Rockingham; with Mr. Edmund Burke, a fervent friend and admirer of America and private secretary to Lord Rockingham, elected to Parliament,—the fortunes of the colonies seemed likely to speedily improve, and such was indeed the outcome. The British merchants that were suffering severely from the loss of American trade, assailed Parliament from without, while Rockingham, Pitt, Burke, and General Conway worked within, and Franklin, called to the bar, underwent an examination by friends and foes, championing his country in argument and presentation in a manner to arouse the admiration and enthusiasm of his friends on both sides of the ocean, and so to confound his enemies that they entered heartily into the general applause, when, as a result of all these favorable conditions, and in spite of royal disapproval and minority intrigues, the odious act was repealed and the yoke of tyranny lifted from the revolting colonists.

It is difficult to believe that any man could undergo such a catechising as this and not in some slight degree fail through the inadequacy or weakness of his answers to the varied questioning of successive inquirers, but he did not once give the opening that his opponents hoped to secure,—some of his ex-

were requested to name suitable residents of their several provinces for appointment as Stamp Officers, which they did as a matter of expediency; Franklin observed at the time that he could not be sure that his nominees would serve, but in the clamor that arose throughout the colonies on the receipt of the news of the passage of the act and the appointment of the deputies, the agents were immoderately blamed for thus approving the enactment. While such was not their intention, Franklin privately advised a

**Without Justice Courage  
Is Weak.** *Poor Richard.*

temporaneous replies being marvels of non-committal adroitness, while his arguments and answers to friendly questions brought out every pertinent fact and figure, every sentiment, result, and possibility bearing on his cause.

After this monumental triumph Franklin hoped that he could be excused from further service, and asked permission of the Assembly to return home, but instead of granting this, it elected him for another year. He continued in London, and in 1768 he was elected

to a similar agency by Georgia, and later by New Jersey, and Massachusetts, which gave him a considerable standing as spokesman for America. In the absence of particular crises following the repeal of the Stamp Act, he employed much of his time in attempting to win the British public to a sympathy for the American cause, in the course of which he wrote and published in the newspapers brilliant anonymous articles of questionable propriety for an ambassador, and his authorship becoming known, lines of division were more sharply drawn between the Whigs, who favored his cause, and the Tories, the governing party which antagonized it, with the result that little good and much harm ensued.

While endeavoring to convince a member of Parliament of the tractability of the Americans under reasonable conditions, he learned that inflammatory letters had been written to an English official by Governor Hutchinson and Lieutenant Governor Oliver, of Massachusetts. These letters placed the people of America in a very quarrelsome and unfavorable light, and recommended repressive measures. As these were averred, and held, to be the sentiments of a majority of the best people of the Colony, they carried much weight and were exhibited privately to Franklin to prove his misunderstanding of the situation. Knowing fully their unreliability and baseness, Franklin secured these for discreet exhibition in America, under the promise that they would not be copied or published, and they were sent to Boston for the edification of a few chosen patriots. By being passed from one to another of the leaders, and read in a secret session of the Assembly, they soon became commonly known, and were published on both sides of the ocean. In Massachusetts the feeling was very strong against Gov. Hutchinson, who was a native American, and had been much honored by the people before his appointment by the Crown.

A petition for his removal, and that of the Lieutenant Governor, in the interest of peace and harmony, was sent to the King, but its effect was only to inflame the already avowed opposition which was pleased to believe every



**Franklin Playing Chess with  
Lord Howe's Sister**

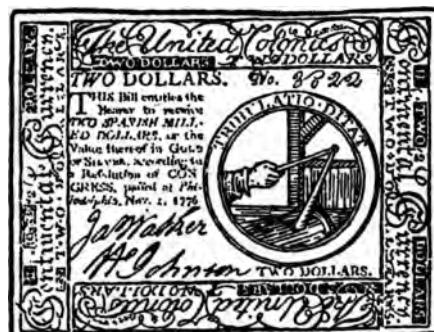
**Do Not Do That Which You Would  
Known.** *Poor Richard.*

word of Hutchinson's arraignment, and which welcomed the opportunity presented by the compromising situation in which Franklin was placed by his acknowledgement of responsibility for despatching the letters.

The strained relations following this episode culminated at the meeting of the Privy Council called to act upon the petition of Massachusetts. Franklin in his capacity as agent presented his case through counsel, but it was a foregone conclusion that the request would be refused; it would, in fact, have received no official attention had it not been for the opportunity it offered for arraigning Franklin on the score of securing and imparting the letters; Many distinguished members and visitors were present and the resentment of the Tories, who formed the council, was intense. Alexander Wedderburn, a Scotch barrister, represented Hutchinson and Oliver, and when his turn arrived he launched into a comprehensive speech eulogising the officials and denying any ground for dissatisfaction with his clients. He then expatiated on the culpability of Franklin, the acknowledged offender, and denounced his entire conduct from the secret procuring, to the final return of the letters. His attack was offensive personally and crushing politically, but during its delivery Franklin maintained a serene dignity that was proof against all accusation and innuendo. He could not, however, combat the charges, as he would not disclose the identity of the one who had given him the letters, and the council had no sympathy with his mollification proposals.

Having broken Franklin's power, the Ministry sought, through indirect channels, to weaken his purpose. It was arranged that he should play chess with Mrs. Howe, sister of Admiral Lord Howe, and at one of these games she, with seeming inadvertence, urged upon him his fitness to act as mediator between the two countries. This idea was also broached by Dr. Fothergill, and David Barclay, a Tory member of Parliament, and led to frequent meetings and consultations with intimates of the Ministers, particularly with Lord Howe, who was one of the closest of these; and at their request Franklin prepared a schedule of terms upon which he thought it possible to secure peace. This was unswerving in its provision for the rehabilitation and liberties of the colonies, and, as might have been expected, was almost wholly distasteful to the Tory leaders, who then endeavored to bribe Franklin, by personal considerations of patronage and financial regard, to lend his influence to the Crown for the unatoned acquiescence of his countrymen in America. Franklin spurned the advances, and, after witnessing in the House of Lords a violent denunciation of everything American, he put his affairs in the hands of Arthur Lee, who had been sent to take his place when he should give up the work, and quietly leaving London he embarked for home.

His discretion in this respect was warranted, and it was a matter for congratulation that he escaped arrest for treason on account of the ramifications of the Hutchinson affair, as the Government was only waiting for direct evidence of this, which it hoped to secure in the return of certain of his letters to the Colonies, to finally dispose of him.



Early American Currency.

During this time the breach between the two countries had materially widened. While Franklin was being arraigned in England, the Colonists had rejected British tea, and at Boston had thrown it overboard, with the result of the closing of that port by Parliament as a retaliatory measure. Before he reached Philadelphia the battle of Lexington had been fought, and all hope of peace and reconciliation had passed.

His wife had died during his absence, and his daughter, Mrs. Sarah Bache, was in charge of the new house, which also had been built while he was away.

The first fruit of his discredit in England, had been his dismissal from the office of Postmaster General, but he was not suffered to realize his leisure, as on the day after his arrival he was elected by the Assembly as one of Pennsylvania's deputies to the Continental Congress, which was soon to meet again in Philadelphia.

Now that the die was cast, he entered heartily into the struggle for independence, and at once became a leader in the Congress and the Committee of Safety, beside which he was elected to the Pennsylvania Legislature, and made Postmaster-General of the united colonies. Events moved rapidly, and soon the American army was organized at Cambridge, with Washington at its head. While this was taking place, Franklin was one of three commissioners who waited on the army to arrange for supplies and settle other matters relating to the war. Soon after this he was called upon to visit Canada, in the hope of winning that colony to the cause of independence. Charles Carroll, of Maryland, was chosen to go with him, and they induced the former's brother, John Carroll, a Roman Catholic priest, to accompany them and use his influence with the clergy of the French Canadian church. This journey was begun late in the winter of 1775-76, and its hardships bore heavily on Franklin, now seventy years of age. He believed it unlikely that he would reach home again, and wrote several farewell letters from Saratoga, where he had an attack of the gout, which disease had, at various times in his life, caused him much suffering and confinement. They reached Montreal, however, though to no purpose, as the Canadians had become strongly prejudiced against the revolutionists, on account of an unsuccessful campaign by General Montgomery against the British stronghold at Quebec, and the bills which his army had contracted and left unpaid.



*William Temple Franklin,  
Son of Governor Franklin.*

**No Man E'er Was Glorious  
Who Was Not Laborious. P. R.**

On his return to Philadelphia, Franklin was made a member of the convention called to frame a constitution for Pennsylvania; and in Congress he was an ardent advocate of the declaration of independence, soon to establish this nation before the world. He also went to New York, at the request of Lord Howe, who had arrived there in command of the British fleet, and who still hoped to make peace. Other commissioners were in attendance, and the party was very courteously received by Lord Howe, but as the Americans now demanded recognition of the United States, and he had authority only to receive the submission of the Colonies, no result could be reached.

Franklin's trials and labors, at this period, were augmented by the position of his son William, who, as royal governor of New Jersey, was unalterably opposed to all that his father was working for. Many conferences took place between them, but without avail, and Governor Franklin was eventually, by order of Congress, sent to Connecticut, and there held under guard until the end of the war, to the great distress of his wife, who finally succumbed to her sorrow and privations, and died before he was released.

The prosecution of the war of the revolution was a tremendous and discouraging undertaking for the new and but half amalgamated nation. Many supplies, for which England had been their only source, now must be manufactured or drawn from other countries. The moral support of these countries must also be obtained and, if possible, their financial and physical aid. This necessitated agents abroad, and later, on appraisal of a friendly disposition of France, recommended an embassy at the French Court. Congress appointed to this service Dr. Franklin, Silas Deane, who was then in Paris as secret agent, and Thomas Jefferson. Mrs. Jefferson was in ill health, and the brilliant author of the Declaration of Independence was unable to accept the position, which was given to Arthur Lee, Franklin's successor in London, who was also acting as agent in Europe.

Franklin took his appointment with equanimity, although another ocean voyage and a renewal of ambassadorial labors could not but be a tax on the waning strength of a man of seventy years. As a parting testimonial of his faith and liberality he collected and loaned to Congress all of his funds that were available at short notice,—upwards of three thousand pounds; an example that was beneficial beyond its pecuniary importance. Just one month after the vote of Congress, on the 26th of October, 1776, he passed cautiously down the river, with his grandsons, William Temple Franklin and Benjamin Franklin Bache, and the next day reached Marcus Hook, where the "Reprisal," a swift recruit to the new navy, waited in readiness to smuggle them through the cordon of British ships and bear him once more across the Atlantic.

Good luck attended the voyage, although it was stormy and dangerous, and in thirty-three days they were landed at Auray, on the coast of France, with two prizes, British merchantmen with valuable cargoes, to contribute funds for the mission.

He had for years enjoyed great popularity in France, and his reception was correspondingly generous and enthusiastic. Auray was a small and unattractive place, and although Dr. Franklin was very weak from the confinement and roughness of the passage, they set out for Nantes as soon as they were able to obtain a post-chaise, which was not until the next day. At Nantes they were entertained by Monsieur Gruel, an active friend of America, at his spacious country house, and at his earnest solicitation Franklin remained there upwards of a week to recuperate before continuing his journey.

**He That Won't Be Counsell'd  
Can't Be Help'd. Poor Richard.**

His arrival at this important and flourishing port was honored by a large gathering of friends of the American cause, and personal admirers of Dr. Franklin, who arranged a "grand dinner" which Franklin attended. His stay with M. Gruel was a continuous ovation, and he met many well informed persons who advised him as to the progress and state of affairs—particularly those of America—at Court.

After a sufficient rest, he continued toward Paris, and without notable adventure arrived there on the twenty-second of December.

His coming, which until his arrival at Nantes was unexpected, had been widely heralded, and Paris, with its accessible world, was in a flutter of expectation regarding this wonderful old man and the momentous cause he was to advocate. He came to the world's capital of elegance and luxury; he brought simplicity and directness of a most accomplished and engaging type. He found learning, culture, and humanity of an old world fullness, and he reflected all these with an added lustre, individuality, wisdom, and humility. He personified a type which the philosophy and affections of a people sated with convention and display, eagerly accepted as the ideal of agreeable democracy. His endowment of their own graces was the medium which made his unique qualities intelligible, and the cause he represented was to France personified in Franklin, and accordingly beloved. From Louis XVI to his humblest subject there was admiration and respect for this kindly old man who labored unceasingly for the enfranchisement of a people, but in the brilliant circles centering at Versailles he found his most sympathetic confrères and associates. His marked partiality for the society of clever women found ample opportunity, and his relations with the Countess d'Houdetot, Madame Helvetius, and Madame Brillon, as revealed in delightful epistles and essays, were intimate and affectionate.

Painters, sculptors, and engravers, in endless succession, reproduced his features or glorified him in extravagant allegory, testifying alike their own enthusiasm and the market value of everything pertaining to the adored American. His popularity was instant, and remains without an equal in the relations of the two countries.

The immediate practical necessities of the American government were arms and equipments for its troops, and when Franklin settled down to his work in Paris the machinery for supplying these had been well organized and set in motion.

Following the earlier movements of Congress, commercial agents, one after another, had departed for Europe and busied themselves to secure credit for these goods, and the means of forwarding them. Among those so commissioned was Monsieur Penet, a French merchant then in Philadelphia, whose enthusiasm was abundant, but whose personal resources



*Silver Pot, with motto "Keep bright the chain," presented by Franklin to a friend.*

**If You Have No Honey in Your Pot  
Have Honey in Your Mouth.** *Poor Richard.*



**Allegory of Franklin Subduing the Lightning  
and Destroying Tyrants. (From a French Print.)**

were not great. Franklin, who had at that time no expectation of visiting France, supplied him with letters of introduction to influential people, and in particular to Dr. Duborg, a scientist with whom he was closely associated and who was zealous in the American cause. M. Penet reached Paris without his credentials, which he left in Holland through fear of being intercepted and robbed of them in traveling to France, but he succeeded in convincing Dr. Duborg of the authenticity of his agency, and the latter at once introduced him to a number of high officials of the French Court, who showed a disposition to grant secretly the financial aid on which his efforts depended. Dr. Duborg proved so well situated to influence the Court that M. Penet prevailed on him to assume the responsibility of forwarding the business at that end, while he, personally, visited the manufactories and seaports to procure and ship the supplies. Dr. Duborg accepted the charge temporarily, and was of great assistance pending the arrival of Silas Deane, a duly accredited commissioner to Europe, who sailed a few months after M. Penet. Dr. Duborg related his operations in a long letter to Franklin, which, being read before Congress, gratified most opportunely its waning hopes of foreign assistance. At this time a star of exceptional power dominated the firmament of the French court, in the person of Caron de Beaumarchais, author of *The Barber of Seville*, horologist, musician, financier, gallant, and favorite, who espoused the cause of the Colonies, and was made the agent under whose cover

**Money and Good Manners  
Make the Gentleman. P. R.**

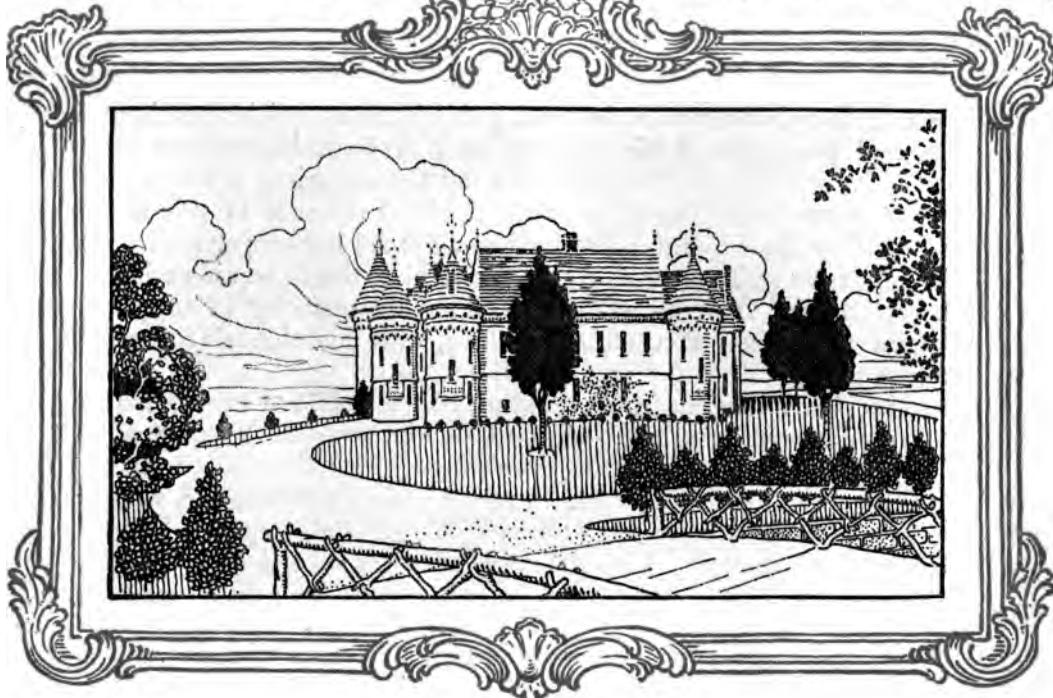
the King dispensed his aid. The house of Hortalez & Co. was organized and imposingly located in Paris, and there Beaumarchais, its sole visible executive, received loans from France and Spain, and expended them for guns, ammunition, and clothing, which were, in one way or another, landed in America, despite the watchful and seemingly effective remonstrance of Lord Stormont, the English ambassador. Though more brilliant than profound in the arguments by which he won the King's support, and actuated by motives not wholly philanthropic, Beaumarchais entered heartily into this undertaking, and staked his own resources and interests to a greater degree than he was then credited with. The French funds were provided as a loan, to be repaid by the Colonies in tobacco and other products as was convenient, but, through misinformation supplied by Arthur Lee, who had arrived at Paris, Congress regarded them as a gift, and did not seriously heed its benefactor's requests for an equivalent, with the result that he was caused financial distress from which he never wholly recovered. Silas Deane, whose resources, dispatched by Congress in the form of cargoes of tobacco, fish, and rice, failed to arrive, availed himself eagerly of Beaumarchais' assistance, and became the medium of the latter's dealings with Congress. Though Deane was useful in many ways, and subsequently friendly and helpful to Franklin, he was unduly blamed in America for his part in sending to this country an embarrassing accession of unwelcome and incompetent French officers — among whom LaFayette, DeKalb, and Steuben were notable exceptions — which, with the troubles resulting from impaired credit and the indifference of Congress to his services and claims, ultimately induced him to forsake his country and join his friend Benedict Arnold in England.

While others had been able to gather material succor for the Colonies, it remained for Franklin to win the moral support which should dignify and ensure the results of the struggle. He was content to leave the details of commercial transactions with Silas Deane and the agents assigned to the several ports where prizes were condemned and cargoes shipped, although it was to him that all these looked for funds when other sources failed, and his wisdom and diplomacy were continually drawn upon to smooth the way for these affairs. A few days after his arrival he was received, with Deane and Lee, by the Count de Vergennes, the minister for foreign affairs, to whom they presented the main features of a treaty which it was desired to conclude with France. They asked the open assistance of the French navy to raise the blockade on American commerce, which in return was to be consigned to French ports. They were listened to with great respect by the minister, and assured of the protection of the king while established in France, but only vague promises could be obtained in regard to the treaty, which they were requested to draw up in due form



*Franklin's Music Stand.*

**You May Give a Man an Office but  
You Cannot Give Him Discretion.** *Poor Richard.*



### Franklin's House at Passy

and present to Monsieur Gerard, the chief secretary of the foreign office.

For a few weeks Franklin resided with Mr. Deane, in the Rue de l'Université, but as so central a location exposed him to many distractions he availed himself of the offer of a house at Passy, a suburb in the direction of Versailles, on the estate of Monsieur de Chaumont, a gentleman of much influence and a steadfast friend of America. Here he established himself, with a retinue of servants,—for, although simple in his own tastes, he must follow the manner usual for a public personage,—and this was his home during the nine years that he remained in France. He was on terms of most cordial intimacy with M. de Chaumont and his family, a fact which contributed materially to his welfare and contentment, while his host's position in court circles was of benefit in the early days of his mission.

The proposed treaty was delivered to M. Gerard, but its consideration was impracticable at that time, as France was unwilling to risk a war with England while the issue in America was so doubtful. Financial aid was, however, extended, and greatly facilitated the labors of the envoys.

As the months passed, amid the difficulties of their multifarious affairs, only disheartening news of their country's events and prospects reached them, and the announcement of Gen. Burgoyne's departure from England with a large army, was the occasion of especial apprehension. Notwithstanding this, Franklin maintained a cheerful demeanor, although he felt keen anxiety, and insisted, in reply to all doubters, that America was strong and would yet triumph.

Among the expedients devised at this time was that of sending advocates to Spain and the Netherlands, and Arthur Lee was dispatched to Madrid, but got no farther than Burgos, where he was met with the intelligence that the Government could not receive an American ambassador, although sympathizing with his cause, and with this and a promise of supplies he returned to Paris. He followed this immediately with a visit to Berlin, but received no aid from Frederick the Great, and returned finally to Paris without appealing to Holland.

**Blessed Is He That Expects Nothing, for  
He Shall Never Be Disappointed. P. R.**

Franklin found time to write and publish many articles bearing on the necessities and prospects of his country, as had been his custom while in England, but it needed positive successes by the American army to raise the cause with the governments and bankers. A slight measure of this was experienced when Captain Hammond arrived as a special messenger with the news of the British defeat at Trenton. At this time, also, the Marquis de la Fayette departed secretly for America with a considerable quantity of supplies and, entered upon the career of usefulness which, with his charming personality, endeared him to all.

These incidents were made the most of, but it was not until a swift messenger from Massachusetts, Mr. Jonathan Austin, arrived at Passy with the astounding news of the capture of Burgoyne's army, that the clouds parted and the outlook of the envoys was illumined. From the depths of despair, which suggested even a proposition looking to terms with England, they rose instantly to heights of favor and success. Beaumarchais, who was on the verge of ruin, was at Passy, and in his unbounded joy drove so furiously to Paris that he was thrown from his carriage and severely injured. Within two days of the arrival of Mr. Austin, M. Gerard called on the envoys to convey the congratulations of the Count de Vergennes, his assurance of a large loan from Spain, and to request them to renew immediately their proposals for an alliance with France. In a short time this was done, and the dream of the envoys became an assured fact, awaiting only the outcome of certain affairs which should permit Spain to participate in it, to become an accomplished one. In anticipation of this, and at the request of the envoys, a strong squadron of French frigates was ordered to sail with a fleet of supply ships then awaiting convoy at Nantes.

Arthur Lee had for months chafed under his personal lack of influence and imagined lack of consideration, and in the rapidly moving events of this period he appears as a continual critic of all that transpired or was accomplished, of no use in the affairs, and constantly intriguing to lessen the influence of his companions and increase his own with Congress. His jealousy of Silas Deane's confidential relations with Beaumarchais led him to discredit the latter as a principal, asserting that he was only a dispenser for the king, with the result that the first cargo of rice and indigo to arrive from America in one of his own ships was consigned to Franklin, Deane, and Lee, regardless of the distracted merchant, who finally convinced the others of his right to the cargo, which was delivered to him in spite of Lee's protest.

With the recognized prospect of a completion of the alliance, the British government caused inquiries to be made as to conditions for peace between England and America, to forestall the continental arrangement, but nothing suited to her desires was now possible, and on the sixth of



*Portrait of LOUIS XVI.  
Given by Him to Franklin.*

*He That Can Have Patience,  
Can Have What He Will. P. R.*



### Signing the Treaty of Peace

February, 1778, the treaties, which were the first to recognize the United States of America, were signed at Versailles. This meant to America the practical success of the Revolution, and it was celebrated throughout the country with great rejoicing. What it meant to Franklin is well shown by the fact that he wore on this occasion the suit of black velvet which had served him but once before, when Wedderburn denounced him at the Hutchinson inquiry, and which he never wore again.

Paul Jones, the intrepid commander who was to devastate English commerce, arrived in the Ranger soon after this, and his affairs were added to Franklin's burden. He expected to receive a fine frigate which the envoys had been building in Holland, but which their necessities had obliged them to sell to the French Government; this was a great disappointment to Captain Jones but he soon made the best of it and cruised in the Ranger around the west coast of England, taking prizes, burning shipping and spreading terror on all sides. In about two weeks he returned to Brest with the Drake, a British ship of twenty guns, captured after a hard fought battle. This victory was received with wonder and admiration, and Captain Jones became preëminently the hero of the hour, a glory perpetuated by his later exploit of capturing the powerful Serapis with his own ship, the Bon Homme Richard, practically a condemned hulk. His timely capture of the Drake was of great benefit to Franklin and the American cause, being evidence of a most unexpected prowess in a wholly improbable direction, and as such particularly gratifying to the new allies. Arthur Lee found in it an opportunity to assert his peevish authority, and caused Jones much inconvenience, which only the warm and helpful friendship of Franklin could dispel.

With the formal signing of the treaties of commerce and alliance came changes in the status of two of their promotores, Mr. Deane being recalled by Congress, and M. Gerard going to America to represent France before that body. On the day that Mr. Deane left, Mr. John Adams of Boston arrived to take his place in the embassy. He was an honest man of unquestioned ability,

**The Brave and Wise Can Both Pity and Excuse;  
When Cowards and Fools Shew No Mercy.** P. R.



### **Philadelphia Library, Founded by Franklin**

but he was by temperament unsuited for a diplomat, and by his sympathies disqualified for service at the French court. His punctilious logic, forced upon the king, excited resentment that required all of Franklin's soothing tact to allay, and caused him eventually to be entirely disregarded by the court. He accepted many of Arthur Lee's prejudices and frequently joined with the latter in affairs antagonistic to Franklin, but in these he was prompted by his judgment, and he retained the respect of the senior envoy.

Arthur Lee continued increasingly to oppose Franklin, and he derived much sympathy and assistance from Ralph Izard, who like Lee, was from the South, and who held the commission of envoy to the court of the Grand Duke of Tuscany but was debarred from Florence by this ruler and remained a member of the American colony in Paris. Their opportunities for mischief were soon lessened by the revocation by Congress of the commissions of the joint envoys in Paris, and the appointment of Franklin as sole plenipotentiary. Adams was not aggrieved, and immediately settled his affairs and returned to America, but Lee, by virtue of a commission to Spain, remained with Izard in Paris until both were recalled by Congress a few months later.

Franklin was left to prosecute, undisturbed through quarrels, the work of his mission, but in the still greater financial responsibility put upon him he paid dearly for his preferment. All obligations from America and Europe which others could not pay, were sent to him in the form of drafts, which the credit of his country and the stability of former loans made it imperative to meet. These required enormous sums above his receipts from prizes and cargoes, but he was always able to secure a further loan from the French treasury, notwithstanding its already overtaxed generosity. As a final effort he was requested to solicit a loan of twenty-five million francs, in addition to a large supply of campaign stores.

**Act Uprightly, Despise All Calumny; Dirt May Stick to a ~~W~~ Wall, but Not to Polish'd Marble. P. R.**

He presented the appeal most ably, and was soon joined by Col. John Laurens, who came as a special envoy for this purpose. After some weeks of waiting, they were informed that the king could not, notwithstanding his good will to the United States, loan the sum asked for, but that he would grant them a free gift of six million francs, and furnish such supplies as were immediately needed. This gift proved the salvation of American finances, and brought the total of French advances to upward of twenty-six million francs, an enormous sum in those days, and an undoubted drain on the resources of that government.

The culmination of the long struggle for independence, in Cornwallis's crushing defeat at Yorktown, lessened the necessity for Franklin's services abroad, and he felt that he should be allowed to transfer the burden to other shoulders, and return to his home for the remnant of his life. He wished to resign at the close of the year 1781, and appealed to Congress to relieve him, but instead he was appointed joint commissioner, with John Adams and John Jay, to negotiate for peace with England.

To bring about this much desired condition was a long and laborious work, and one that taxed to the utmost Franklin's sagacity and tact. England would readily have treated with America alone, but such an abandonment of their ally was abhorrent to the commissioners, while the prospect of craving the forbearance of her hereditary enemy was equally so to England. Gradually, through slight opportunities and unofficial channels, the leaders learned each other's "mind," and after nine months of informal proposition and argument, during a considerable part of which Franklin was incapacitated by serious illness, nine preliminary articles of peace were signed on the thirtieth of November, 1782, by Dr. Franklin, John Adams, John Jay, and Henry Laurens, on the part of the United States, and by Richard Oswald, on the part of England. This treaty was a manifest victory for America, and lacked but Franklin's cherished plan of the acquisition of Canada, to include all that was proposed by this country, while its demands in regard to Maine and the Newfoundland fisheries,—the two chief points in contest,—were unreservedly included. This was subject to ratification by the French government, and a little friction was occasioned by the fact of its having been signed before the approval of the ally had been obtained, but this was alleviated by Franklin, and another large loan secured for his impoverished country.

On September third, 1783, the final treaty was signed by the American commissioners, and by Mr. David Hartly on the part of England. Its ratification by Congress and by King George III followed in due course, and then, the work of the commission being accomplished, Franklin once more requested the privilege of returning to America, but, for a year and a half, this request was unheeded. He spent this intervening period in pleasant intercourse and reunion with old friends who sought him at Passy, and he became, to a degree, reconciled with Governor Franklin, then in England. Thomas Jefferson arrived at Paris in August, 1784, and in March, 1785, when Dr. Franklin's resignation was finally accepted by Congress, Jefferson was appointed in his place. He had anticipated this to the extent of settling his affairs, and he left Paris on the twelfth of July, after a cordial interchange of devoirs with the king and ministers. His last public act in France was the signing, a few days before his departure, of a most enlightened treaty with Prussia. Louis XVI, as a parting token, presented Franklin his portrait, in the form of a miniature surrounded by four hundred and eight diamonds.

**The Sun Never Repents of the Good We Does,  
Nor Does He Ever Demand a Recompense.** P. R.



### **Franklin's Grave, Philadelphia.**

Franklin's infirmities were such that he could not ride in a carriage, and he traveled in one of the queen's litters, borne by two mules, accompanied by his grandsons, William Temple Franklin, who had been his constant companion and secretary, and Benjamin Franklin Bache, just returned from studying in Switzerland, as well as by M. de Chaumont and other friends who were loth to part from him. He took the journey to Havre by easy stages, and from there crossed to Southampton, to await the arrival of the ship which was to take them home. Here he was visited by many old friends, and the reconciliation with Governor Franklin was completed, the latter on this occasion transferring to his son William Temple, the title to his property in New Jersey. They sailed July twenty-eighth, and after a voyage of seven weeks, during which Dr. Franklin greatly improved in health, and which he occupied as usual with scientific researches, they reached Philadelphia, where he was received with great affection and enthusiasm.

Even now he was not permitted to enjoy a rest from public life, but was soon elected President of the state of Pennsylvania, and continued in this office for three years, which was the limit set by the constitution. He was chosen a member of the convention which met in 1787 to draft a constitution for the United States, and was, as usual, a leader in the work. He saw the commencement of the imposing building for the Philadelphia library, an outcome of the Junto, and he took part in a protest against slaveholding, an institution repugnant to many at that early day.

In the fullness of his achievements and honors, loving and beloved, he passed away on the night of the seventeenth of April, 1790, after suffering for some days with a recurrence of a lung trouble that had threatened his life in youth. He was buried beside his wife, as he had desired to be, his funeral attended by almost the entire city, in reverent procession. His life was an element in the progress of the world, and indispensable in the establishment of the United States of America.

**Fear Not Death; for the Sooner We Die,  
The Longer Shall We Be Immortal.** P. R.



## THE BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Pattern of Table Flatware illustrated in the following pages, is, in its graceful simplicity, representative of the character of its illustrious namesake who, throughout a long life whose influences ranged from the humble conditions of his Puritan birthplace to the magnificence of the court of Louis XVI., maintained his inherent and cultivated simplicity of dress and demeanor.

It is a perfected arrangement of characteristic Colonial elements, especially distinguished by the pronounced embossment which reinforces the handles while contributing greatly to their beauty.

This design is made in sterling silver, 925/1000 fine, and may be had in chest combinations of a few dozen or many hundred pieces.

### TOWLE MFG. COMPANY

*Silversmiths*

NEW BURYPORT  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
42 MADISON STREET



MASSACHUSETTS  
NEW YORK CITY  
41 UNION SQUARE

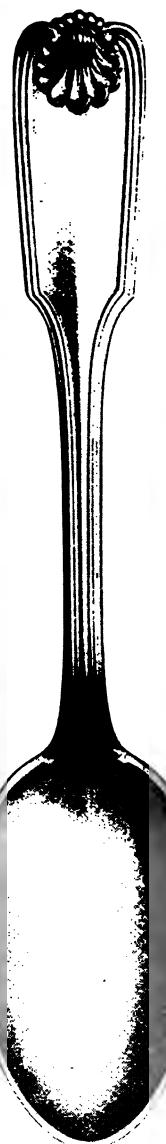
THE TOWLE MFG. COMPANY DOES NO RETAIL BUSINESS ANYWHERE

Tea Spoon, P.M.

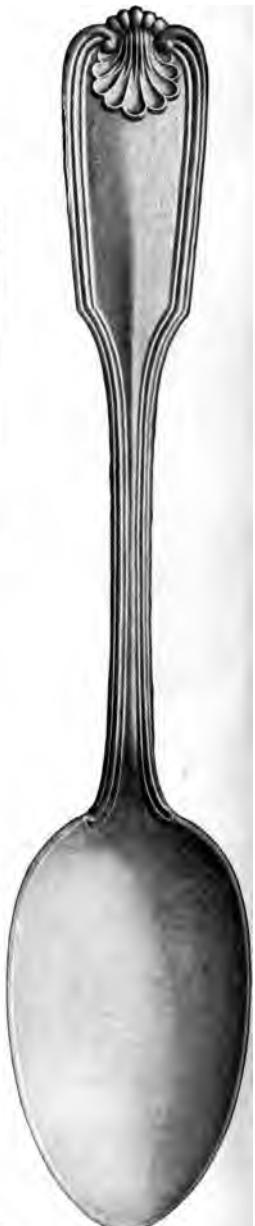


Ne'er take a wife till thou  
hast a house (and a fire) to put  
her in. *Poor Richard.*

Tea Spoon, Nos. 15 and 18

Dessert Spoon,  
Nos. 24, 28 and 32Table Spoon,  
Nos. 39 and 45

Pap Spoon



ACTUAL SIZE



STERLING SILVER

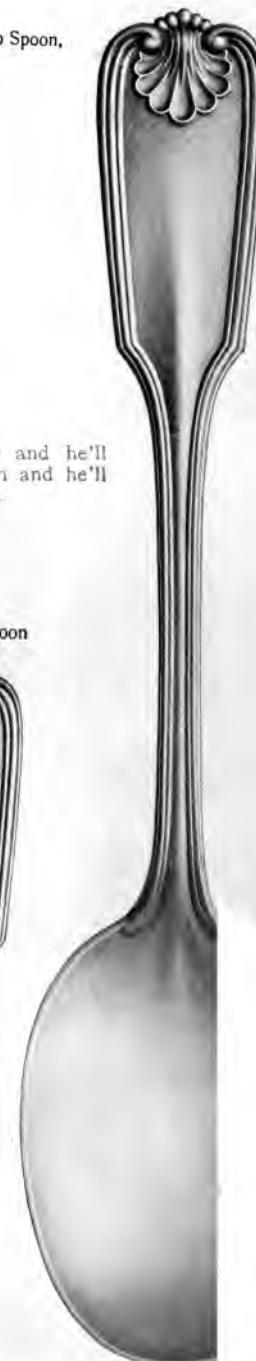
925  
1000 FINE

Design Patented

Dessert Fork

Table Fork,  
Nos. 36 and 42

Soup Spoon,



ACTUAL SIZE



STERLING SILVER

925  
1000 FINE

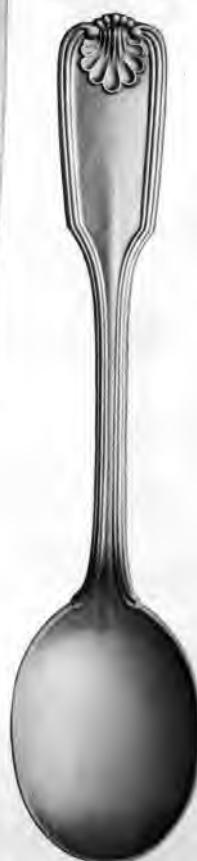
Design Patented

Anoint a villain and he'll  
stab you, stab him and he'll  
anoint you. *P. R.*

Bouillon Spoon



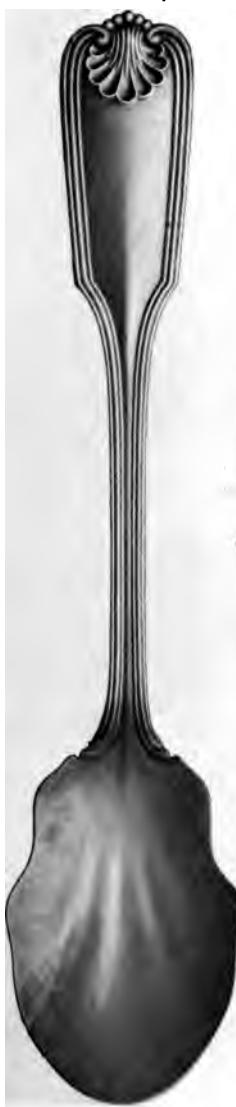
Chocolate Spoon



Coffee Spoon



Ice Cream Spoon



ACTUAL SIZE

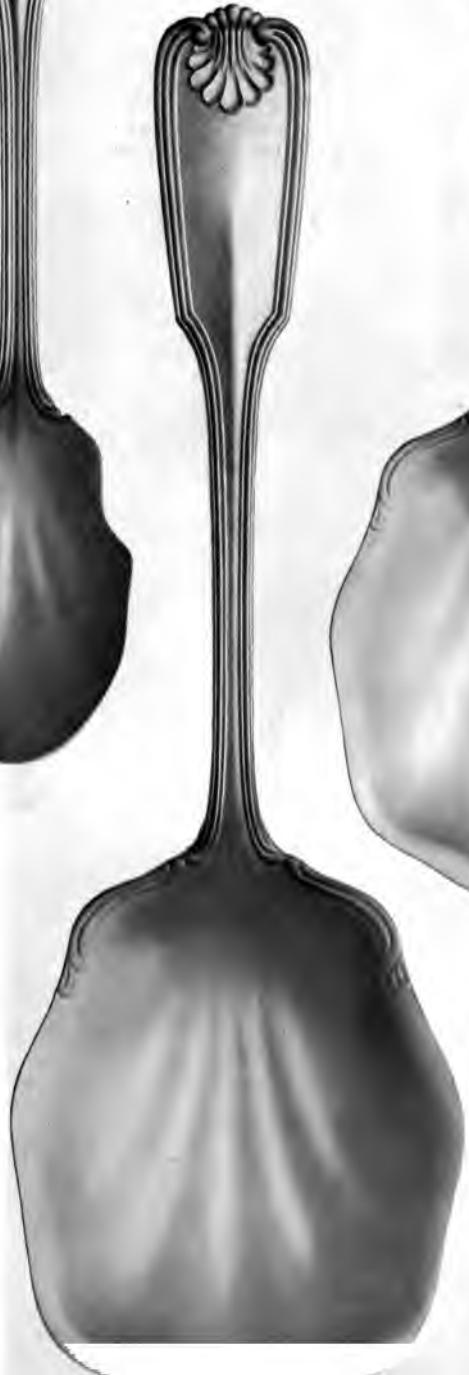


STERLING SILVER

925  
1000 FINE

Design Patented

Jelly Spoon



Sugar Spoon



Is it not enough piagues, wars  
and famine, rise to lash our  
crimes, but must our wives be  
wise? Poor Richard.

Preserve Spoon



# Benjamin

# Franklin

Olive Spoon



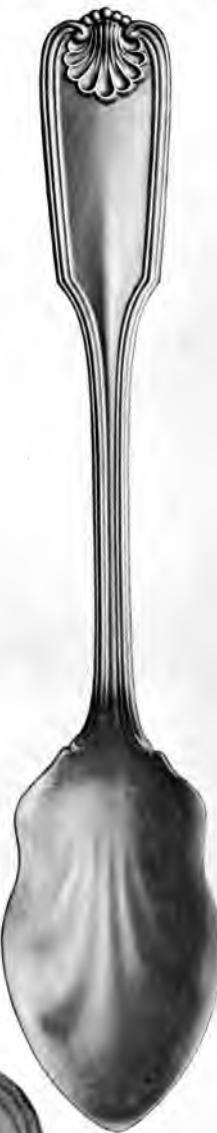
Egg Spoon



Berry Spoon



Orange Spoon



Olive Fork



ACTUAL SIZE



STERLING SILVER

925  
1000 FINE

Design Patented

He that cannot obey, cannot  
command. *P. R.*

Reading makes a full man,  
meditation a profound man,  
discourse a clear man. P. R.

Creat

ACTUAL SIZE



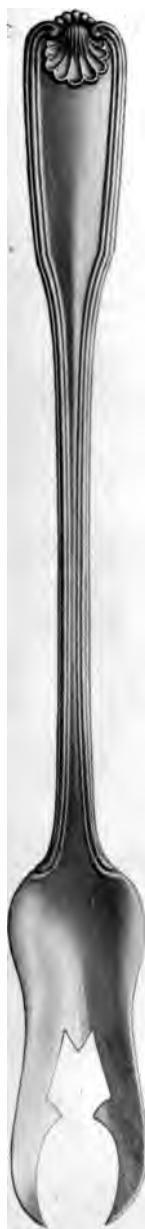
STERLING SILVER

$\frac{925}{1000}$  FINE

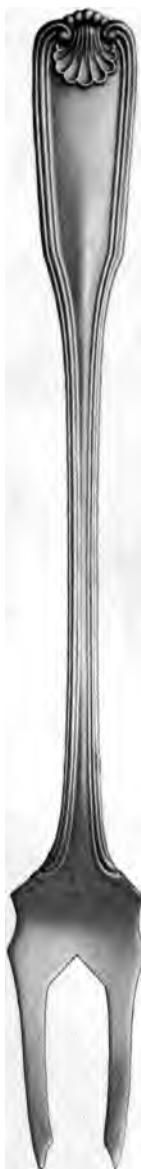
Design Patented



Lobster Fork



Chow Chow Fork

Ideal Olive Spoon  
and Fork

Horse Radish Spoo

Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise. *P. R.*

Butter Pick



ACTUAL SIZE

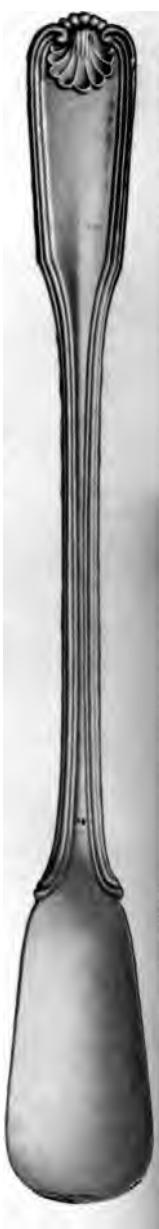


STERLING SILVER

$\frac{925}{1000}$  FINE

Design Patented

Nut Pick



Terrapin Fork

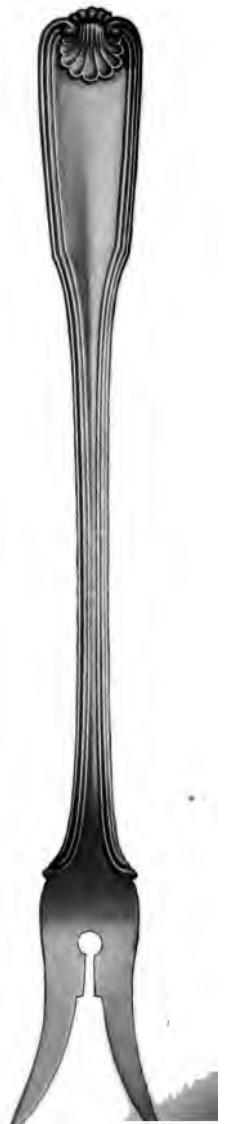


To God we owe fear and  
love; to our neighbours jus-  
tice and charity; to our selves  
prudence and sobriety. P. R.

Berry Fork



Bread Fork

Butter Pick  
LargeOyster Cocktail  
Fork

ACTUAL SIZE

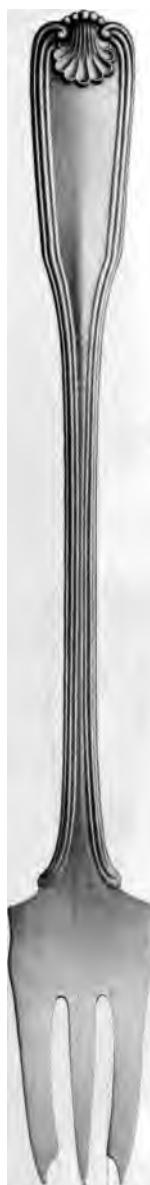


STERLING SILVER

925  
1000 FINE

Design Patented

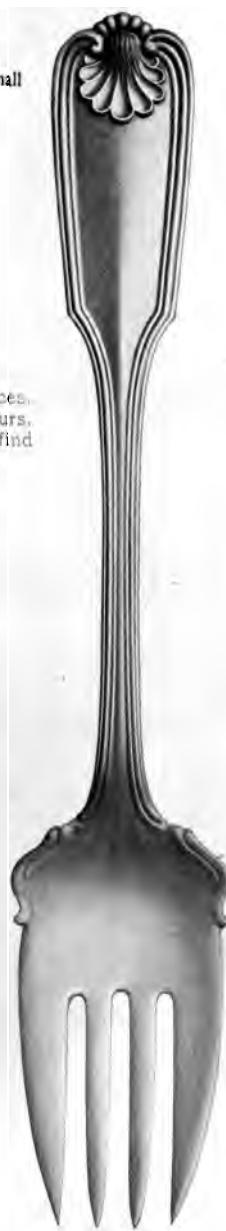




Oyster Fork

Individual Salad Fork, Small

Be at war with your vices,  
at peace with your neighbours,  
and let every new-year find  
you a better man. *P. R.*

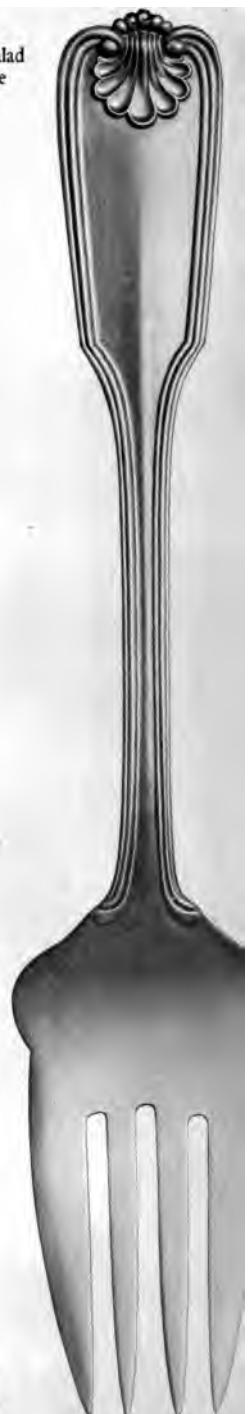


Individual Salad Fork, Large



Individual Fish Fork

Beef Fork,



ACTUAL SIZE



STERLING SILVER

925  
1000 FINE

Design Patented

Meat Fork



Pastry Fork



Spinach Fork



Learn of the skilful; he that  
teaches himself, hath a fool  
for his master. *P. R.*

ACTUAL SIZE

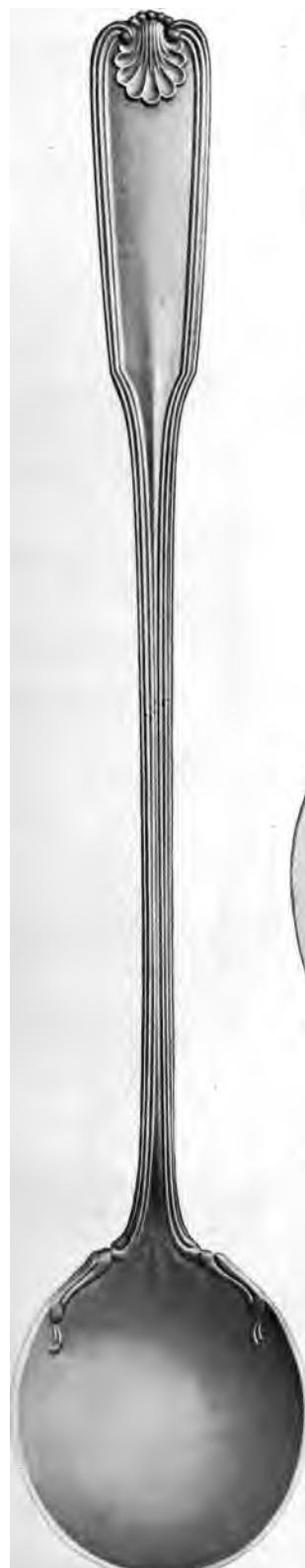


STERLING SILVER

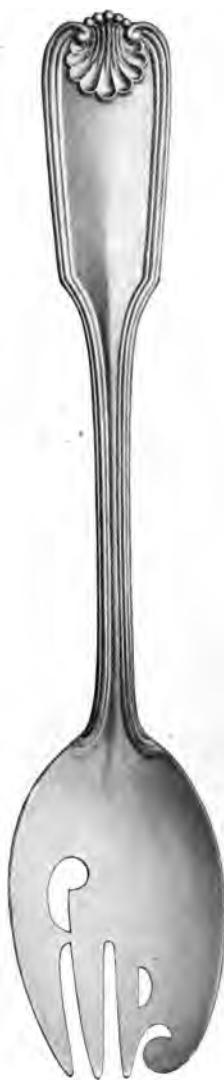
$\frac{925}{1000}$  FINE

Design Patented

Chocolate Muddler



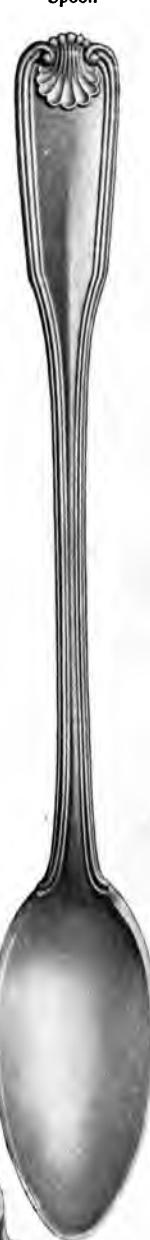
Ramekin Fork



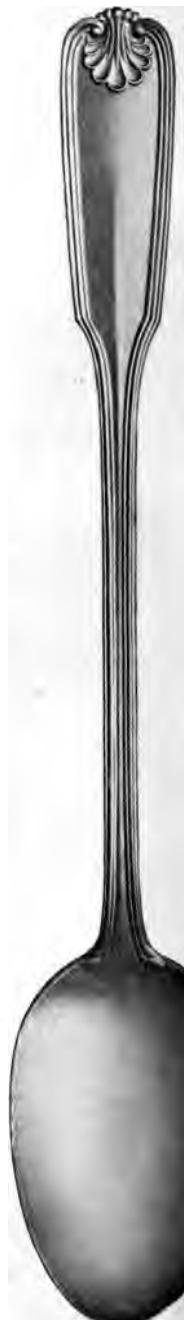
Vegetable Fork



Chow Chow Spoon



Iced Tea Spoon



ACTUAL SIZE



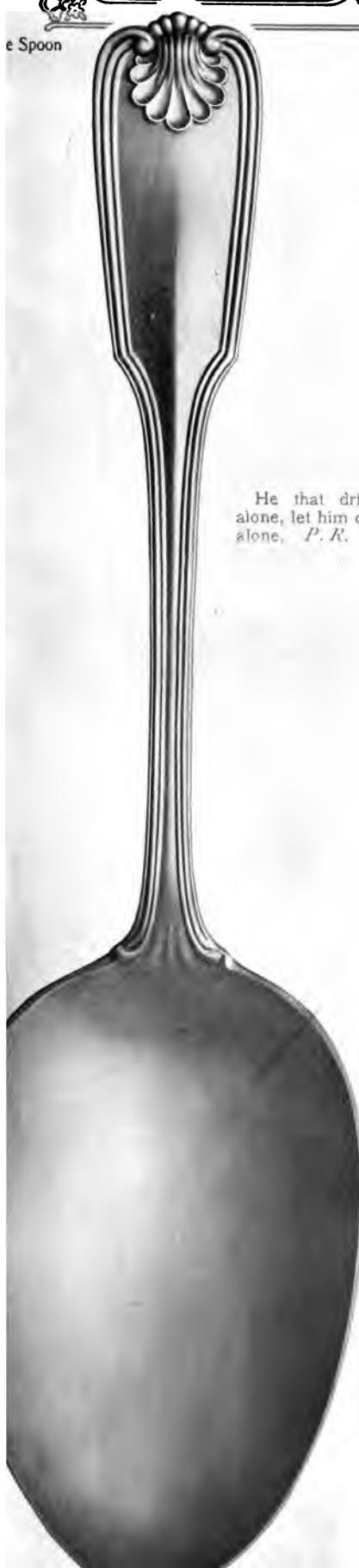
STERLING SILVER

925  
1000 FINE

Design Patented

Hear no ill of a friend, nor  
speak any of an enemy. *P.R.*

Tea Spoon



Jelly Knife



Entree Fork



He that drinks his cyder  
alone, let him catch his horse  
alone. *P. R.*

ACTUAL SIZE



STERLING SILVER

$\frac{925}{1000}$  FINE

Design Patented

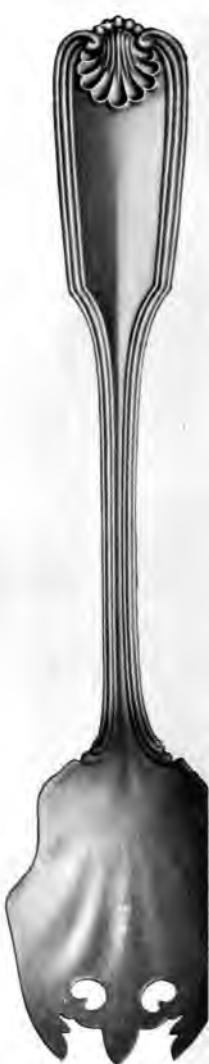
Pickle Fork



Asparagus Fork



Ice Cream Fork



Tim was so learned, that he could name a horse in nine languages. So ignorant, that he bought a cow to ride on.

P. R.

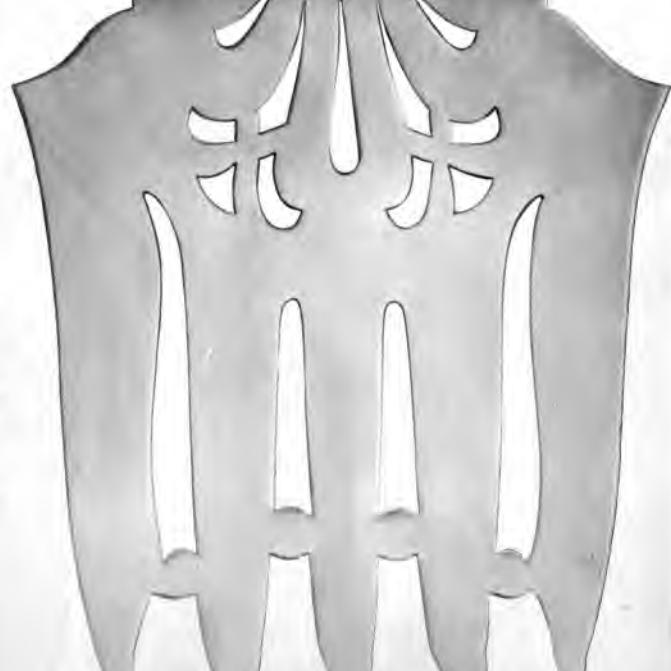
ACTUAL SIZE



STERLING SILVER

925  
FINE  
1000

Design Patented



Toast Server

Sardine Fork

Sardine Tongs.

If man could have half his  
wishes, he would double his  
troubles. P. R.

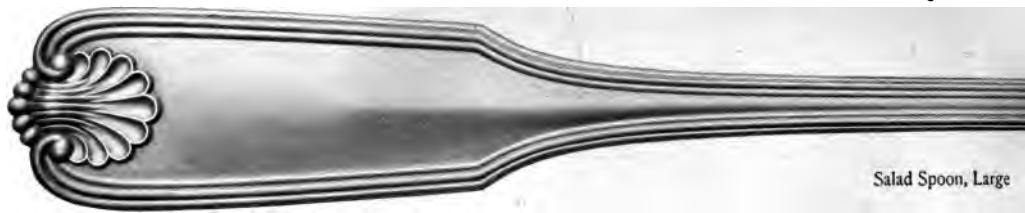
ACTUAL SIZE



STERLING SILVER

925  
1000 FINE

Design Patented



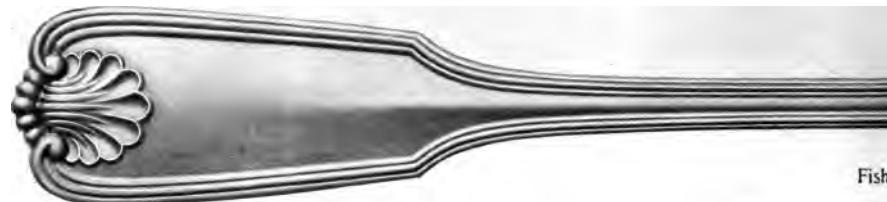
Salad Spoon, Large

When a friend deals with a friend,  
let the bargain be clear  
and well penn'd, that they may  
continue friends to the end.

P. R.



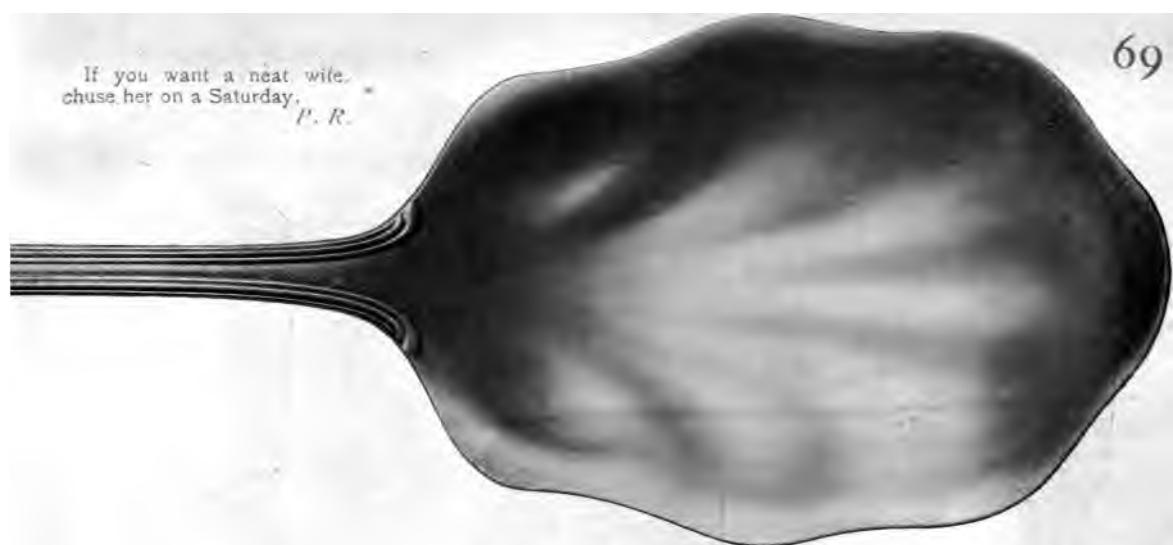
Salad Fork, Large



Fish



If you want a neat wife,  
choose her on a Saturday.  
P. R.



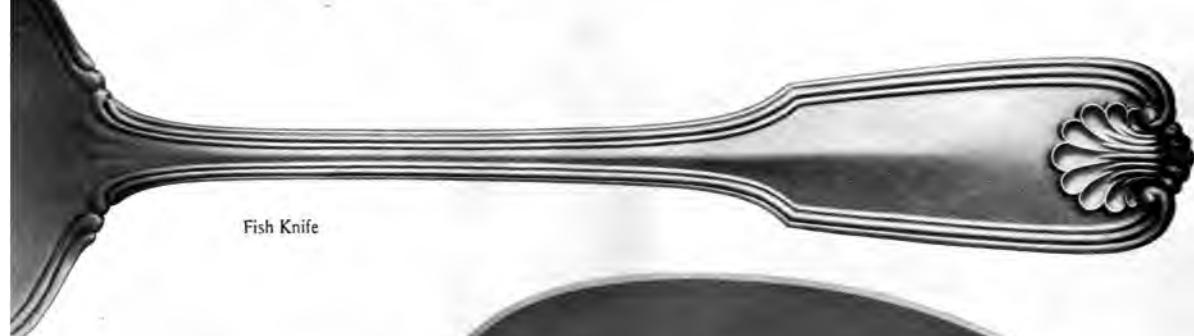
ACTUAL SIZE



STERLING SILVER

925 FINE  
1000

Design Patented



Fish Knife

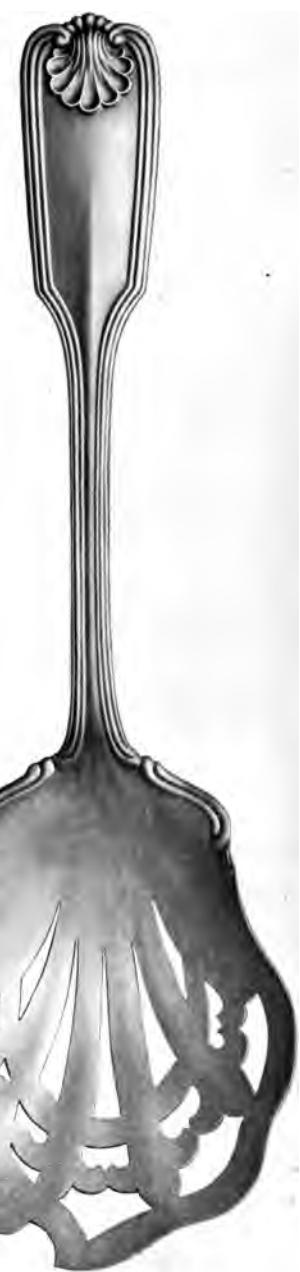


Platter Spoon

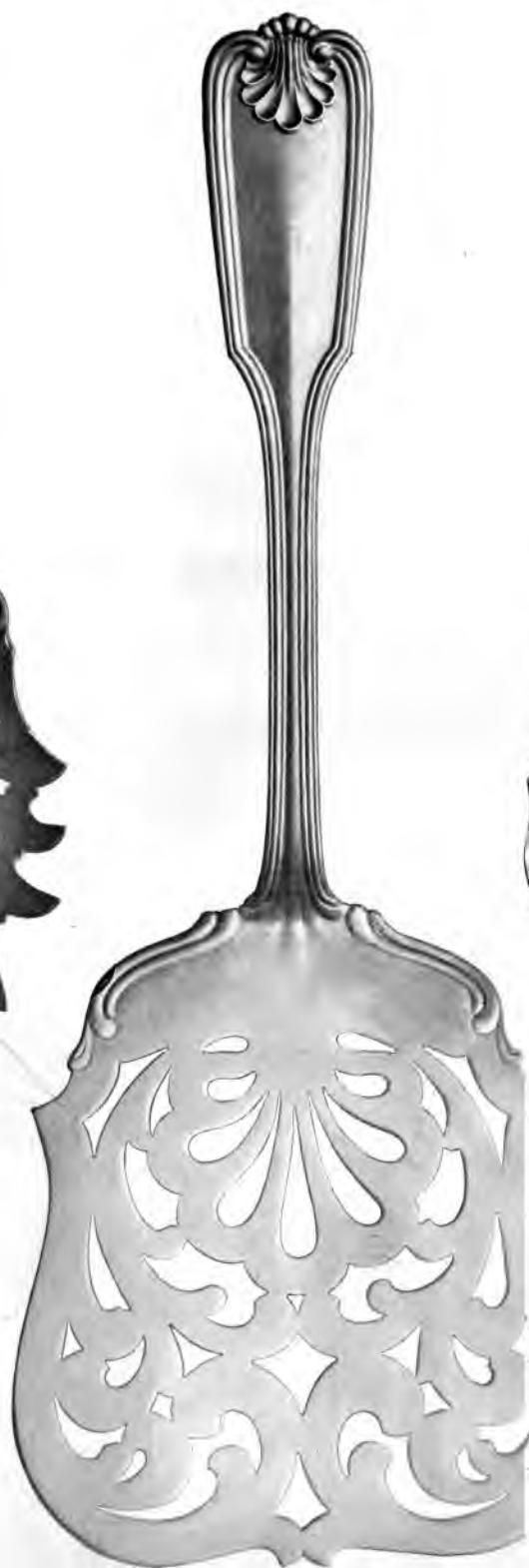


Cheese Server

Lemon Server



Waffle Server



Most people return small favours, acknowledge middling ones, and repay great ones with ingratitude. *P.R.*

ACTUAL SIZE



STERLING SILVER

925  
1000 FINE

Design Patented

ACTUAL SIZE



STERLING SILVER

925 FINE  
1000 STERLING

Design Patented

Patty Server



Confection Spoon

Don't go to the doctor with  
every distemper, nor to the  
lawyer with every quarrel, nor  
to the pot for every thirst.

P. R.



Tomato Server.





Ice Spoon



Pea Server

Tart words make no friends;  
a spoonful of honey will catch  
more flies than a gallon of  
vinegar. P. R.

ACTUAL SIZE

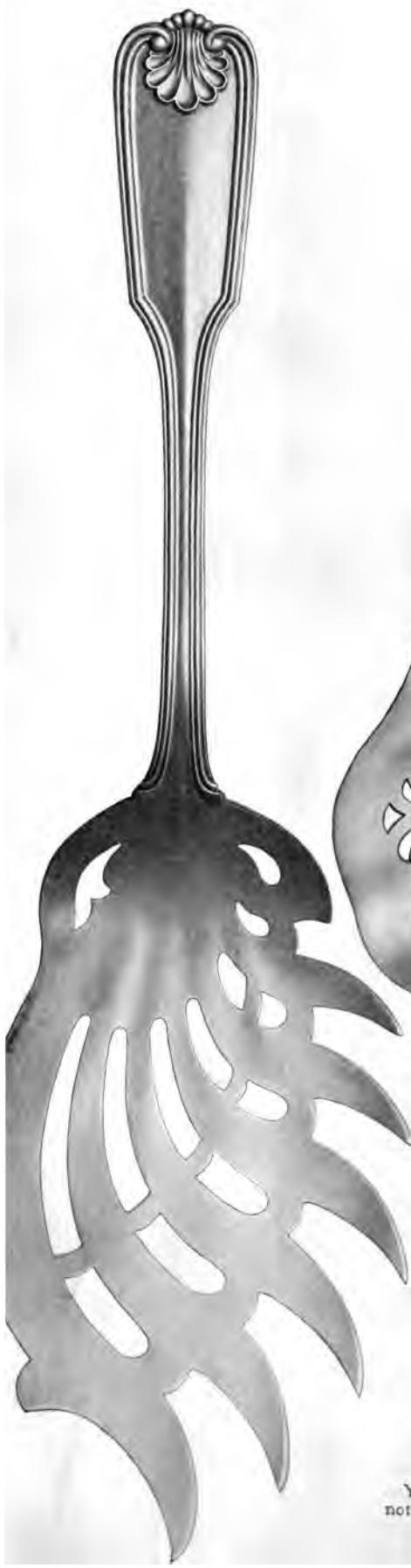


STERLING SILVER

925  
1000 FINE

Design Patented

Macaroni Server



Cucumber Server



Oyster Server



ACTUAL SIZE



STERLING SILVER

925  
1000 FINE

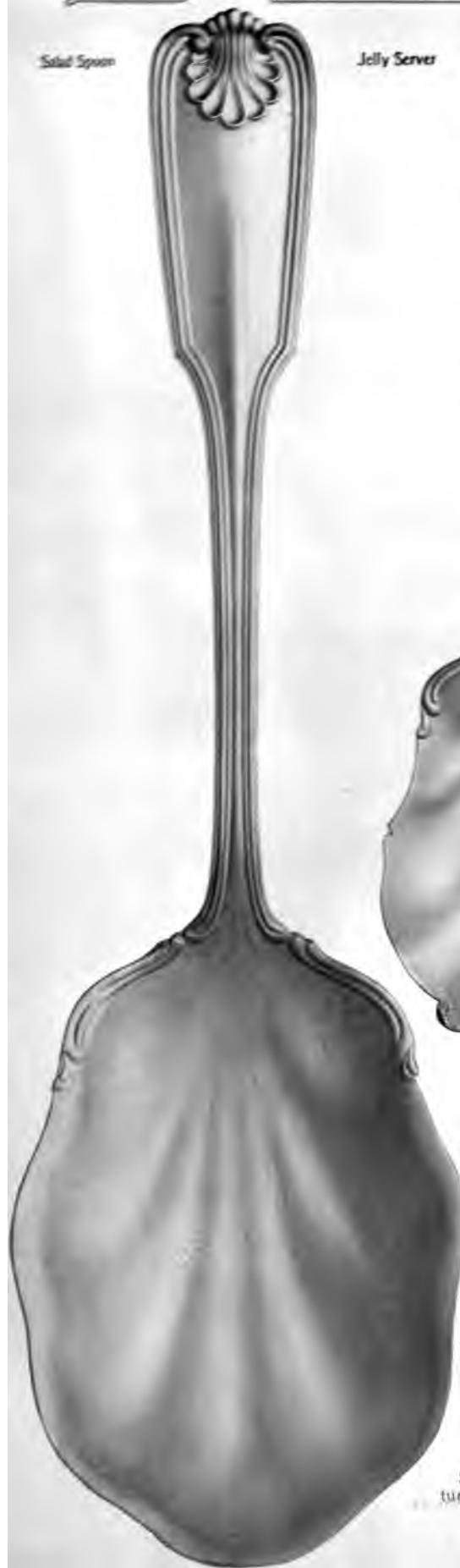
Design Patented

You may delay, but time will  
not. *Poor Richard.*

— Benjamin

Franklin

Salad Spoon



Jelly Server



Salad Fork



ACTUAL SIZE



STERLING SILVER

925 FINE  
1000

Design Patented

Search others for their virtues, thyself for thy vices.  
P. R.

Benjamin

Franklin

7



Vegetable Spoon



Puddi

If worldly goods cannot save  
me from death, they ought not  
to hinder me of eternal life.  
P. R.

ACTUAL SIZE



STERLING SILVER

$\frac{925}{1000}$  FINE

Design Patented



Experience keeps a dear  
school, yet fools will learn in  
no other. P. R.



Pie Server

ACTUAL SIZE

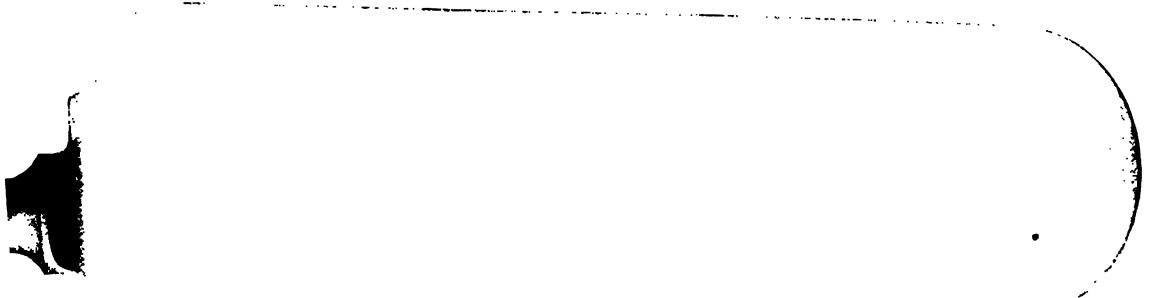
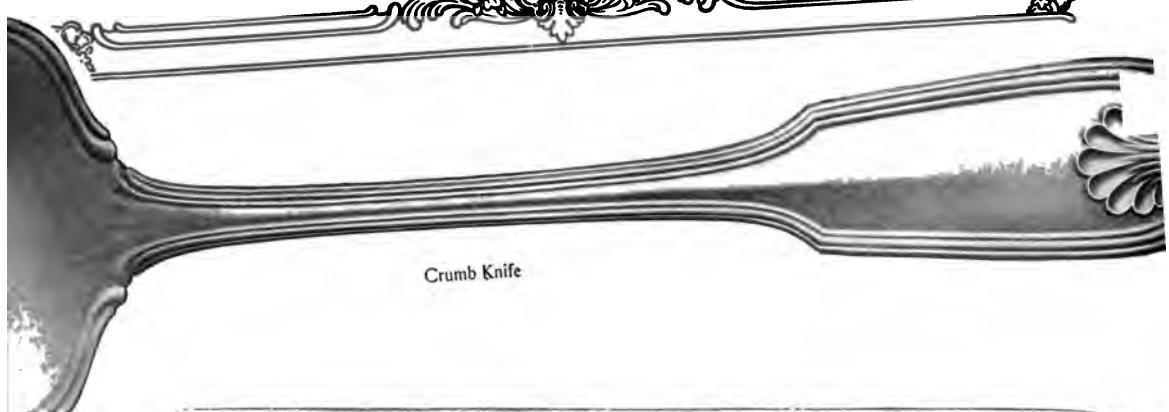


STERLING SILVER

925  
1000 FINE

Design Patented





Ice Cream Slicer, H.H.  
Plated Steel Blade



Ice Cream Server

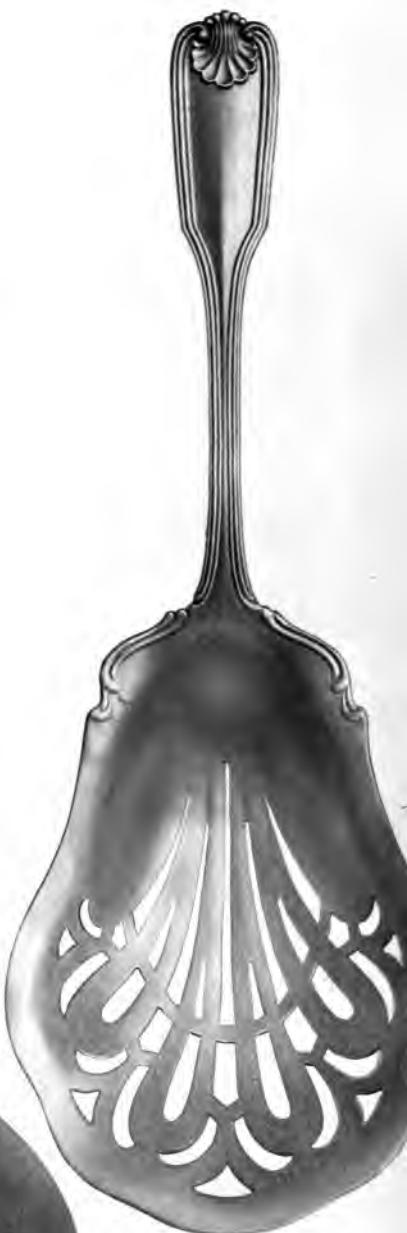
What you would seem to be,  
be really. P. R.



Almond Scoop

Better is a little with content  
than much with contention.  
*P. R.*

Bonbon Scoop



Cracker Scoop

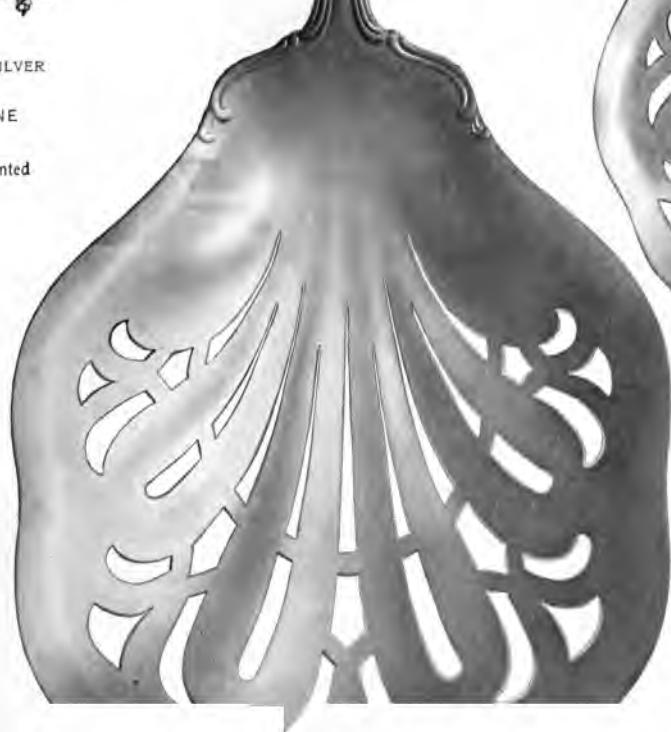
ACTUAL SIZE



STERLING SILVER

925 FINE  
1000

Design Patented





Lettuce Spoon



Croquette Server



Lettuce Fork

ACTUAL SIZE



STERLING SILVER

925 FINE  
1000

Design Patented

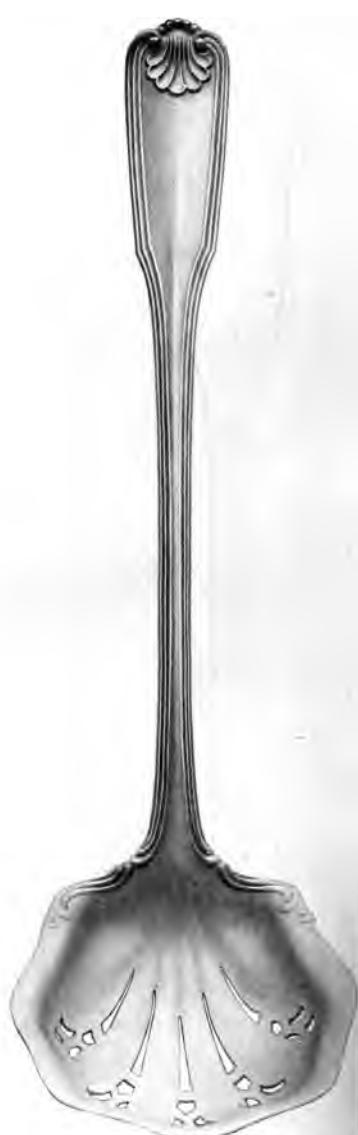
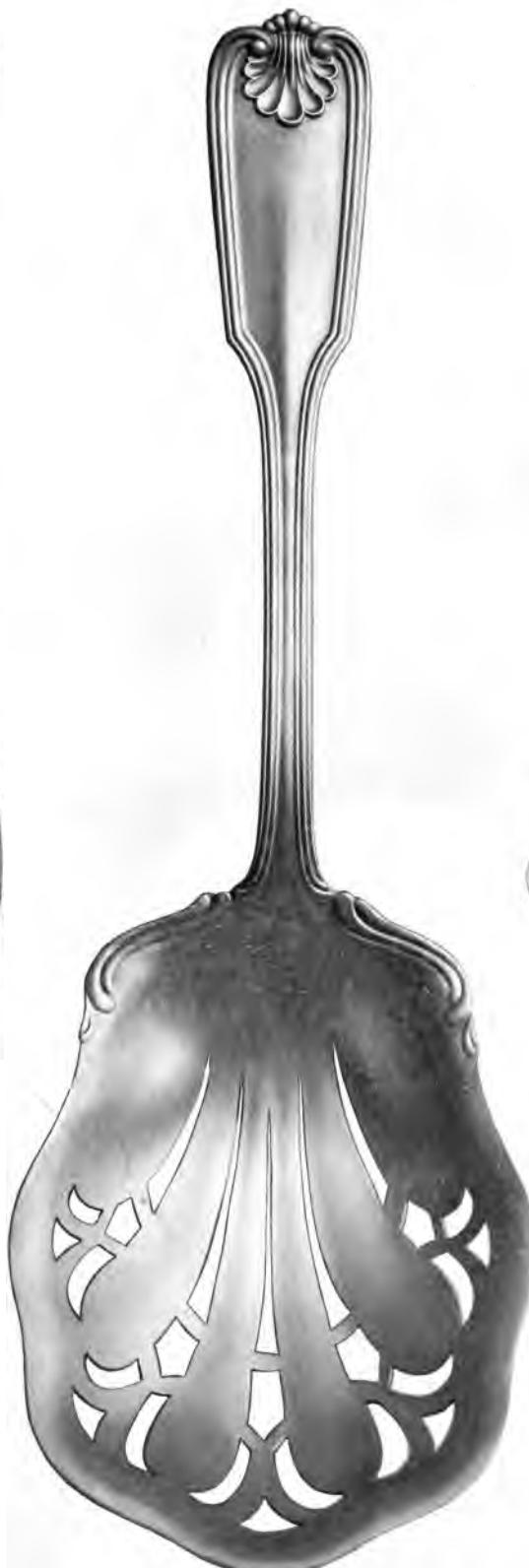
Let thy discontents be se-  
crets. P. R.



Small Olive Spoon

Wealth is not his that has it  
but his that enjoys it. —P. R.

Nut Spoon



Sugar Sifter

ACTUAL SIZE



STERLING SILVER

925  
1000 FINE

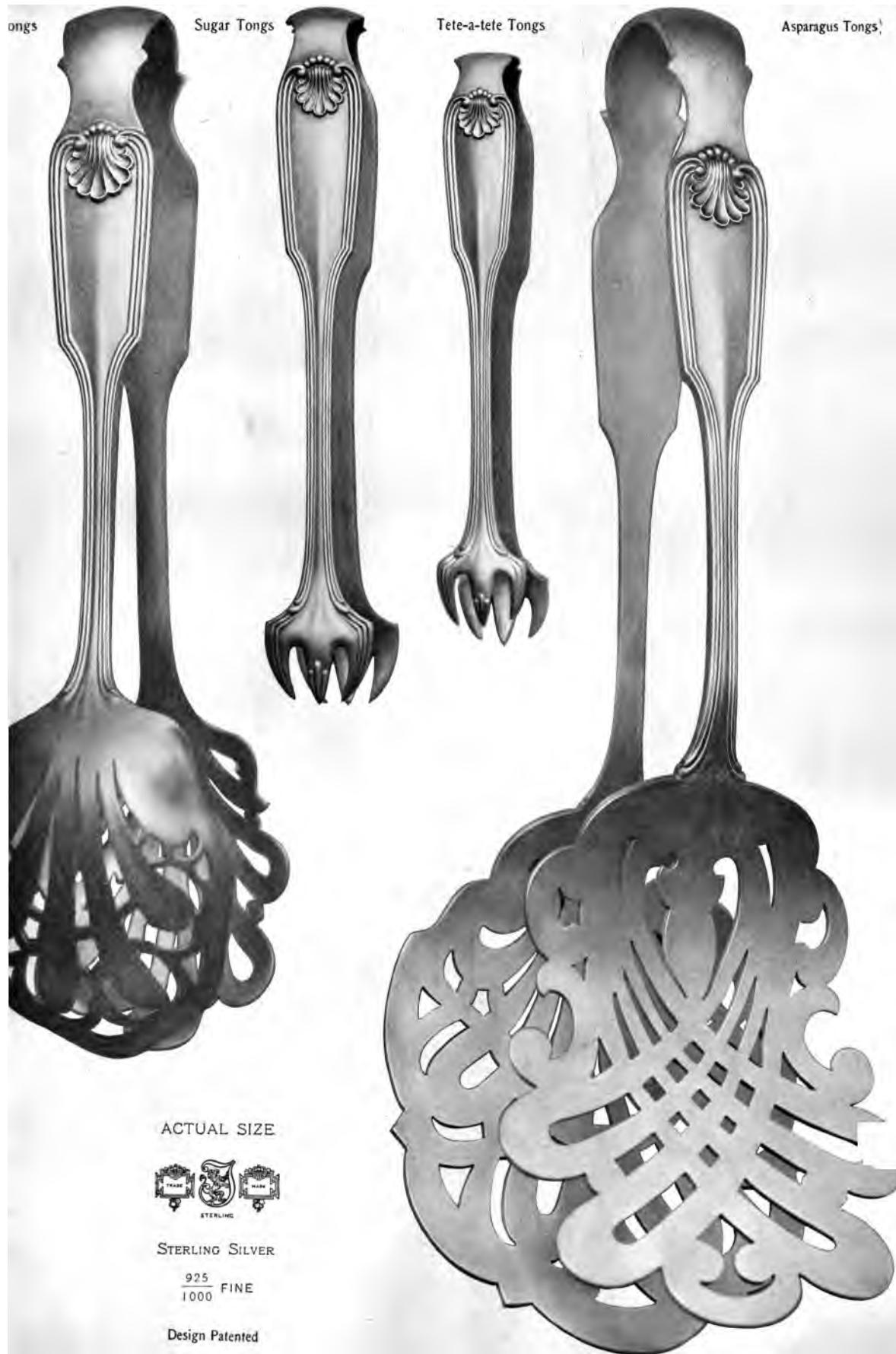
Design Patented

tongs

Sugar Tongs

Tete-a-tete Tongs

Asparagus Tongs<sup>1</sup>



82

Nut Crack



Asparagus Server  
Hollow Handle

ACTUAL SIZE



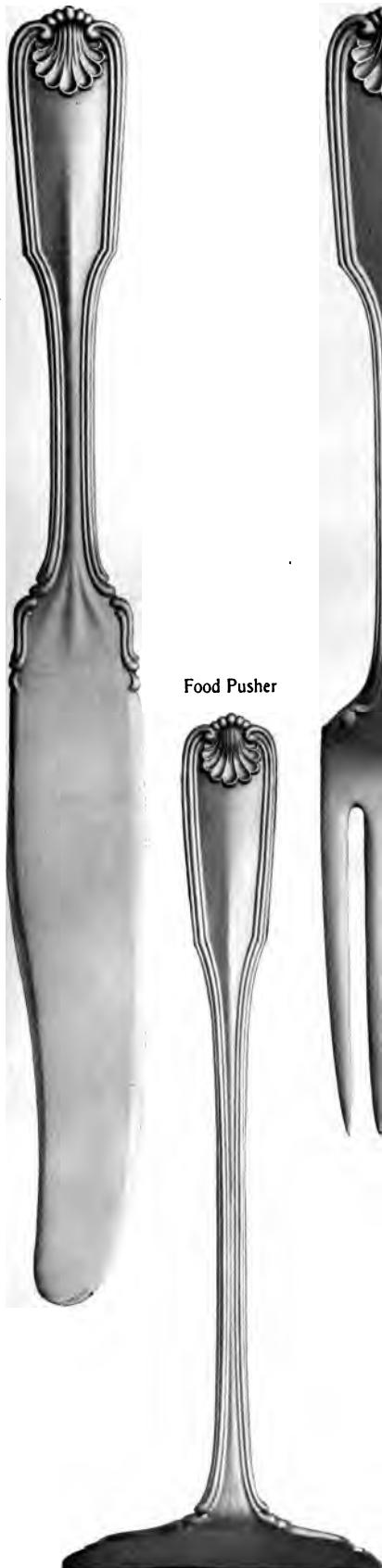
STERLING SILVER

925  
1000 FINE

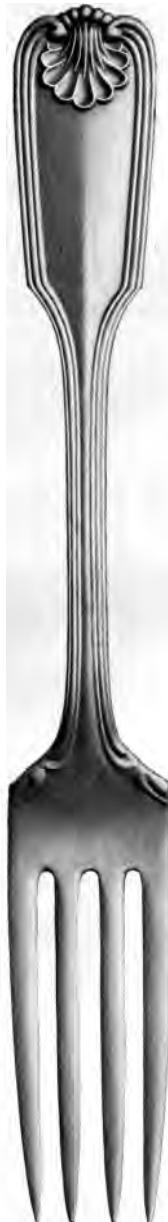
Design Patented



Child's Knife



Child's Fork

Fruit Fork  
Hollow Handle  
Plated Steel Tines

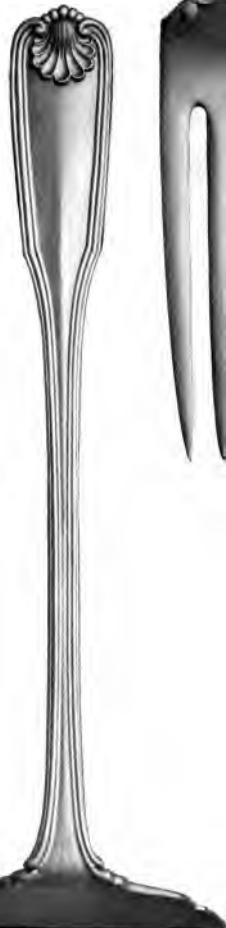
Child's Knife, H.H.



Cheese Scoop



Food Pusher



Hunger never saw bad bread.  
P. R.

ACTUAL SIZE



STERLING SILVER

925  
1000 FINE

Design Patented



Roast Holder, Small

ACTUAL SIZE



STERLING SILVER

925  
1000 FINE

Design Patented



Roast Holder, Large

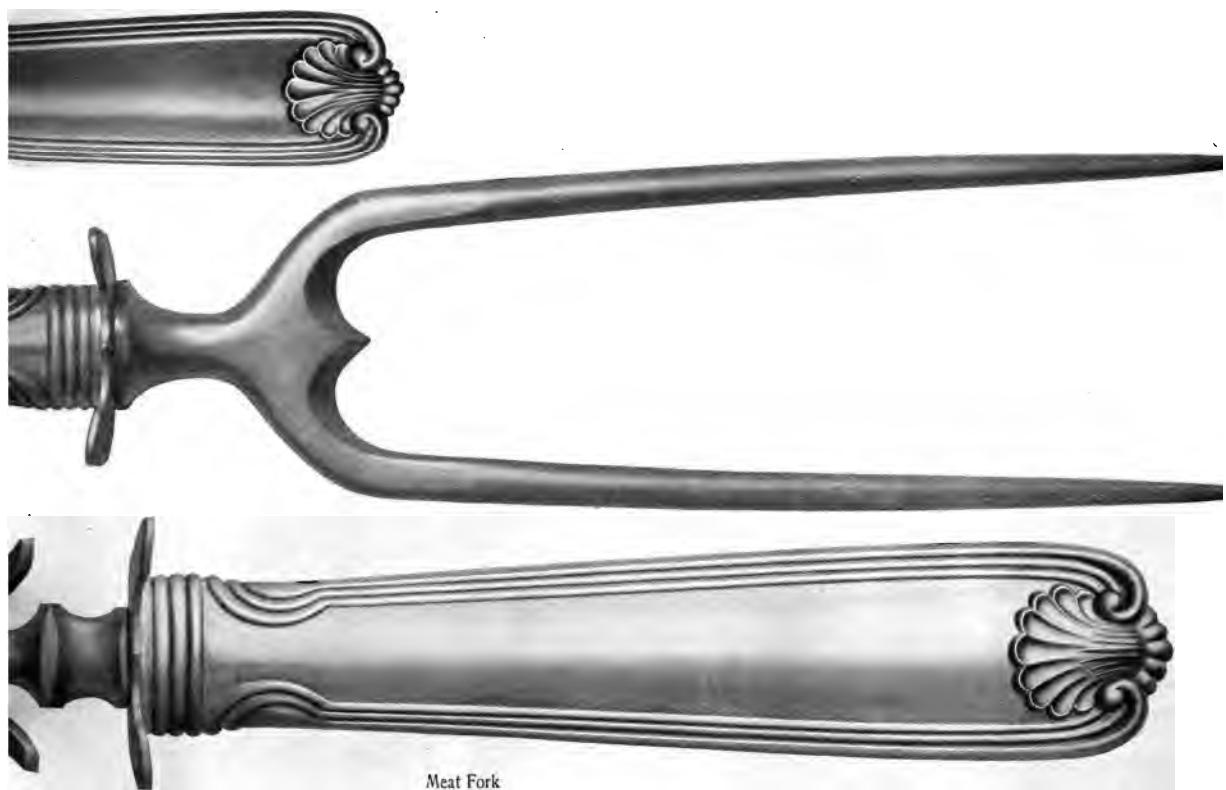


Steel

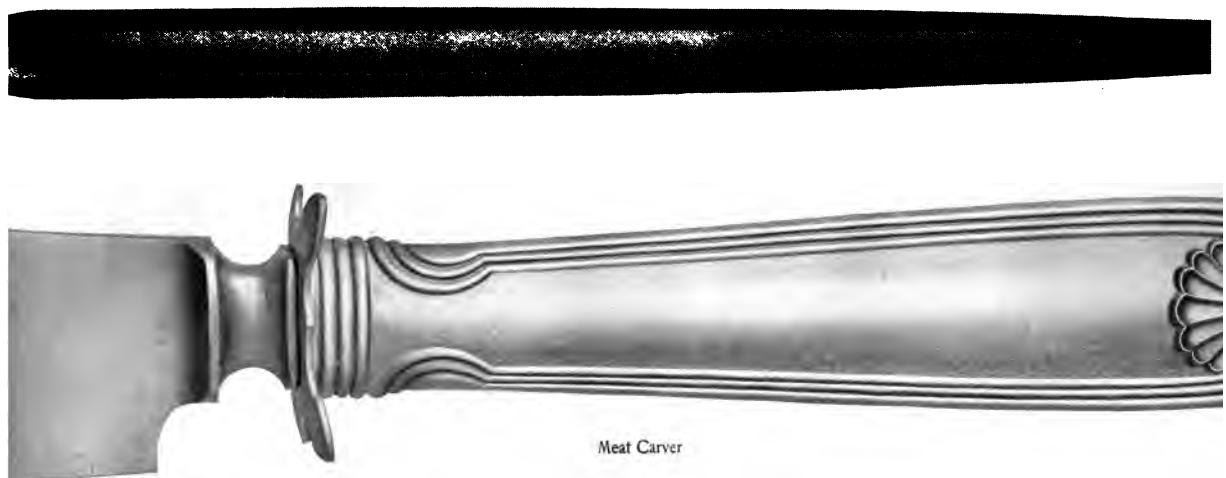


Game Fork





Meat Fork



Meat Carver



Game Carver

Individual  
Fish KnifeButter Knife  
Bent

Fruit Knife



Duck Knife



Butter Spreader, H.H.

Butter Spreader  
SmallButter Spreader  
Large

ACTUAL SIZE



STERLING SILVER

925  
1000 FINE

Design Patented



Bird Carver



Bird Fork



Bird Steel



Tea Knife



Dessert Knife



Medium Knife

ACTUAL SIZE



STERLING SILVER

925  
1000 FINE

To lengthen thy life, lessen  
thy meals. *P.R.*

Design Patented



### MAHOGANY CHEST, No. 358

Deck and four Drawers. Metal trimmings of Franklin design.

Also made in Oak and Maple.

Height, 18  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches; front, 30 inches; front to back, 22 inches.

Accommodates 297 pieces.

#### DECK

2 Salt Spoons	1 Lettuce Fork	1 Sugar Tongs
1 Mustard Spoon	1 Pickle Fork	1 Salad Fork
1 Horse Radish Spoon	1 Sardine Fork	1 Salad Spoon
1 Sugar Spoon	1 Cold Meat Fork	1 Fish Knife
1 Jelly Spoon	1 Butter Knife	1 Fish Fork
1 Berry Spoon	1 Chocolate Muddler	1 Cream Ladle
1 Ideal Olive Spoon and Fork	1 Tête-à-tête Tongs	1 Gravy Ladle
1 Lettuce Spoon		1 Soup Ladle

#### DRAWER ONE

12 Chocolate Spoons	12 Butter Spreaders	12 Oyster Forks
12 Orange Spoons	12 Ice Cream Forks	12 Individual Salad Forks
12 Iced Tea Spoons		12 Soup Spoons

#### DRAWER TWO

12 Tea Spoons, P.M.	12 Dessert Spoons	12 Table Forks
12 Tea Spoons	12 Dessert Forks	12 Coffee Spoons
12 Table Spoons		12 Bouillon Spoons

#### DRAWER THREE

12 Tea Knives	12 Duck Knives	1 Roast Holder, Large
12 Fruit Knives	12 Fish Knives	3-Piece Bird Carving Set

#### DRAWER FOUR

12 Dessert Knives	12 Medium Knives	5-Piece Carving Set
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# INDEX

Page	Page	Page			
Almond Scoop . . . . .	78	Fish Knife . . . . .	68	Pap Spoon . . . . .	54
Asparagus Fork . . . . .	66	Fish Knife, individual	86	Pastry Fork . . . . .	63
Asparagus Server . . . . .	82	Food Pusher . . . . .	83	Patty Server . . . . .	71
Asparagus Tongs . . . . .	81	Fruit Fork, H.H. . . . .	83	Pea Server . . . . .	72
Beef Fork . . . . .	62	Game Carving Set . . . . .	84	Pickle Fork . . . . .	66
Berry Fork . . . . .	61	Gravy Ladle . . . . .	58	Pie Server, H.H. . . . .	76
Berry Spoon . . . . .	57	Horseradish Spoon . . . . .	60	Platter Spoon . . . . .	68
Bird Carving Set . . . . .	87	Ice Cream Fork . . . . .	66	Preserve Spoon . . . . .	56
Bonbon Scoop . . . . .	78	Ice Cream Spoon . . . . .	56	Pudding Spoon . . . . .	75
Bouillon Ladle . . . . .	58	Ice Cream Server . . . . .	77	Punch Ladle . . . . .	58
Bouillon Spoon . . . . .	55	Ice Cream Slicer, H.H. . . . .	77	Ramekin Fork . . . . .	64
Bread Fork . . . . .	61	Ice Cream Slicer, H.H., plated steel blade	77	Roast Holder, large . . . . .	84
Butter Knife . . . . .	86	Iced Tea Spoon . . . . .	64	Roast Holder, small . . . . .	84
Butter Pick, large . . . . .	61	Ice Spoon . . . . .	72	Salad Fork, individual, large . . . . .	62
Butter Pick . . . . .	60	Ice Tongs . . . . .	81	Salad Fork, individual, small . . . . .	62
Butter Spreader, H.H. . . . .	86	Ideal Olive Spoon and Fork . . . . .	60	Salad Fork . . . . .	74
Butter Spreader, large . . . . .	86	Jelly Knife . . . . .	65	Salad Spoon . . . . .	74
Butter Spreader, small . . . . .	86	Jelly Server . . . . .	74	Salad Fork, large . . . . .	68
Carver's Assistants . . . . .	84	Jelly Spoon . . . . .	56	Salad Spoon, large . . . . .	68
Carving Sets . . . . .	84-87	Lemon Server . . . . .	70	Salt Spoon . . . . .	59
Cheese Scoop, H.H. . . . .	83	Lettuce Fork . . . . .	79	Salt Spoon, individual . . . . .	59
Cheese Server . . . . .	70	Lettuce Spoon . . . . .	79	Sardine Fork . . . . .	67
Child's Fork . . . . .	83	Lobster Fork . . . . .	60	Sardine Tongs . . . . .	67
Child's Knife . . . . .	83	Macaroni Server . . . . .	73	Soup Ladle . . . . .	58
Child's Knife, H.H. . . . .	83	Mayonnaise Ladle . . . . .	58	Soup Spoon . . . . .	55
Chocolate Muddler . . . . .	64	Meat Carving Set . . . . .	84	Spinach Fork . . . . .	63
Chocolate Spoon . . . . .	55	Medium Knife . . . . .	87	Steak Carving Set . . . . .	87
Chow Chow Fork . . . . .	60	Mustard Spoon . . . . .	58	Sugar Sifter . . . . .	80
Chow Chow Spoon . . . . .	64	Nut Crack, H.H. . . . .	82	Sugar Spoon . . . . .	56
Coffee Spoon . . . . .	55	Nut Pick . . . . .	60	Sugar Tongs . . . . .	81
Cold Meat Fork . . . . .	63	Nut Spoon . . . . .	80	Table Fork . . . . .	55
Confection Spoon . . . . .	71	Olive Fork . . . . .	57	Table Spoon . . . . .	54
Cracker Scoop . . . . .	78	Olive Spoon . . . . .	57	Tea Knife . . . . .	87
Cream Ladle . . . . .	58	Olive Spoon, Small . . . . .	80	Tea Spoon . . . . .	54
Croquette Server . . . . .	79	Olive Spoon and Fork, one piece	60	Tea Spoon, P.M. . . . .	54
Crumb Knife . . . . .	76	Orange Knife . . . . .	86	Terrapin Fork . . . . .	61
Cucumber Server . . . . .	73	Orange Spoon . . . . .	57	Tête-à-tête Tongs . . . . .	81
Dessert Fork . . . . .	55	Oyster Cocktail Fork . . . . .	61	Toast Server . . . . .	67
Dessert Knife . . . . .	87	Oyster Fork . . . . .	62	Tomato Server . . . . .	71
Dessert Spoon . . . . .	54	Oyster Ladle . . . . .	58	Vegetable Fork . . . . .	64
Duck Knife . . . . .	86	Oyster Server . . . . .	73	Vegetable Spoon . . . . .	75
Egg Spoon . . . . .	57			Waffle Server . . . . .	70
Entree Fork . . . . .	65				
Entree Spoon . . . . .	65				
Fish Fork . . . . .	68				
Fish Fork, individual . . . . .	62				



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